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Welcome

PHOTOGRAPH OLIVER GORDON



COLOUR, ABUNDANCE and collecting are words that sum up Britain's favourite gardener, Alys Fowler, and her approach to furnishing her home as well as designing her garden. Prints, paintings, inherited pieces of furniture and cherished bric-a-brac adorn the redbrick Birmingham home she shares with husband Holiday. 'I like being able to touch things that matter to me,' she reveals in our profile on p28.

If you're looking for key pieces to add a personal touch to your home, this month's HB Project focuses on the living room, one of the heaviest traffic areas for today's busy families. Furnishing this space is a challenge - you are creating somewhere private and tranquil for the family, which needs to look warm and welcoming for guests, while showcasing your personal style. Our 24-page special on p99 shows you how to plan a transformation. Complete your scheme with inspiration from our flooring guide on p90.

For other updates, the 101 Fabulous Furniture Buys supplement, free with this issue, is packed with ideas, including storage, table and side table suggestions.

Finally, if you're planning a house move or extension, the latest Federation of Master Builders survey warns that the shortage of bricks and bricklayers is causing problems for many small- and medium-sized building firms. 'Half are finding it difficult to recruit bricklayers and 62 per cent are waiting up to two months for brick orders to arrive,' says chief executive Brian Berry.

One solution to this ongoing problem is to choose an alternative to brick-built construction. Turn to p66 to find out about House Beautiful Homes, our state-of-the-art, modular designs that are factory built and delivered fully finished on site.

Enjoy your home this September!

Julia

Julia Goodwin, Editor
Follow me on twitter
@JuliaHouseBEd



Favourite buys for September

On walls, floors and more, we can't get enough of **BLUE HUES** this month



1 Little Greene's dazzlingly blue collection of 21 **paint shades**, including Mazarine (on wall), is available from the end of September, from £18.75 for 1L **2** Cute painted **vase**, £25, House of Fraser **3** A padded seat on the Junction Scoop **dining chair**, £558 a pair, Furniture Village, ensures comfort **4** Have a restful night in the handcrafted double Bronte **bed**, £1,095, The Wrought Iron and Brass Bed Co **5** Feel snug in a lambswool Jude Wedgewood **throw**, £95, Twig

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

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Styling **Hannah Deacon**
Find out how to get our
cover look on p73

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*Our cover stories are
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Don't miss



**THIS
MONTH**

FREE 32-PAGE MAGAZINE

The ultimate guide to sofas, dining tables, chairs, storage...



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GETTY IMAGES

Find top tips for a greener life, from caring for your cactus to creating a cottage garden. Also reader homes and makeovers to inspire you

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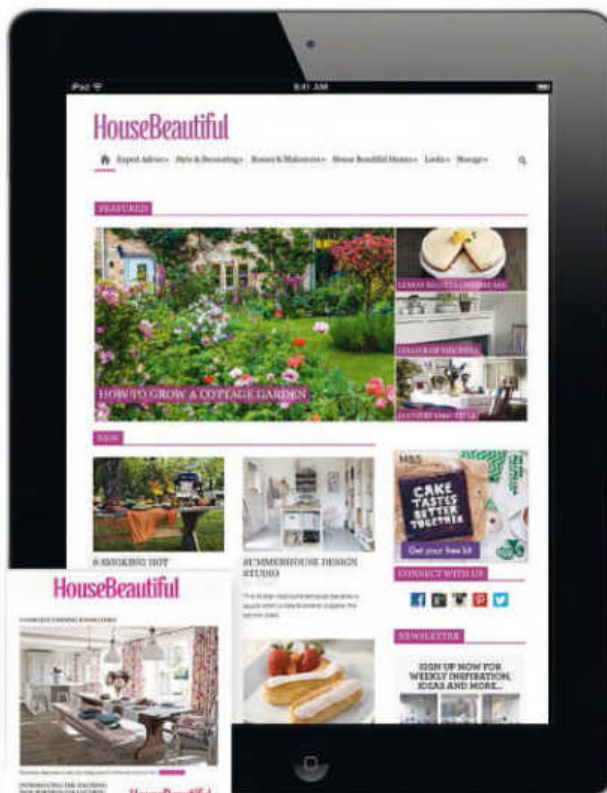
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STAR
LETTER



GRAND DESIGNS

I wish I'd been able to read *Building Your Own Home Isn't Just A Dream - Anyone Can Do It* (July 2015) before I built my own home 21 years ago. I made lots of mistakes that were quite costly, but if I'd had Kevin McCloud's advice to hand I'd have created a home I loved. I've since sold my self-build, but if I decide to do it again I'll keep Kevin's advice close at hand.

E Joseph Cooper, Dalston, London

We're glad you found Kevin's advice interesting. Take a look at the House Beautiful Homes on p66 for more ideas. Ed

GREEN FINGERS

As I'm now the proud owner of my very own allotment, I was pleased to discover your pick of garden essentials in *Allotment Envy* (Sustainable Home, July 2015). When I got my plot, I really didn't know where to start but I've got a good idea now and am ready to get growing with the gorgeous and practical pieces you suggested.

Daniella Roberts, Clwyd

STORAGE IDEAS

I was motivated to finally start sorting out my cluttered wardrobe by your *Well Organised* storage feature (August 2015). I tend to shut the door and forget about the mess but your article gave me some great ideas for creating order. Once it's done, I look forward to finding an item of clothing in less than five minutes!

Abigail George, via email



OUTDOOR UPDATE

Your article *Revamp Your Outdoor Room* (August 2015) filled me with new ideas for my rather old-fashioned and neglected conservatory. I loved the bamboo Shute lightshade from Habitat, and adding a pretty display of cactus plants, cushions and vases will complete the look beautifully. By the time I've finished with it, my conservatory will be a true extension of my home instead of an eyesore!

Molly Burton, Flint

A TASTE OF INDIA

Last year we were fortunate to have a holiday in India. There's a saying there 'Athithi devo Bhava' meaning 'The guest is God'. And they certainly do go out of their way to please guests. We really loved the cuisine so I was grateful for your *Indian Summer* recipes in the August 2015 issue. I made the tomato and red onion salad with roasted coriander and burrata for my family, which brought back many happy memories and was absolutely delicious.

Kayla Maddocks, Theobald's Grove, Hertfordshire

SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU

I'd like to thank Jackie Moon at Brabantia. The hinge on my retro kitchen bin had broken so I rang Brabantia to order a new one.

Jackie asked me to send photographs so she could assess the damage and then emailed me saying she had ordered a free replacement for me. I was expecting to receive a hinge, but when a massive box arrived, I realised she had sent a whole new bin!

Nicola Atkins, via email



If you'd like to thank someone for help or great service, email or write to Say a Special Thank You at the address below. If your letter is printed, we'll send them a bouquet from Bunches (0800 626 249; bunches.co.uk).

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WORTH
£100



From our Facebook page... I can't choose my favourite! They are all so beautiful! says Jane Kreisel Lopez on our post about the most picturesque streets in the UK



From our Twitter feed... Spotted! Another @surfaceview mural in @HB styled with copper products by @hannahdstylist #blueandcopper #interiors



From Julia... Great judging Renovation of the Year with lovely Lisa Stickley, @fmbuilders Brian Berry and Kellie Wyles from sponsor @dfs. Amazing entries @JuliaHouseBE

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WHAT'S HOT

BEYOND THE PALE

Sometimes prints can look overwhelming, but play with scale and go for softer colours for a more subtle effect – such as this stylish Cecile **teapot** in Rosé, £19.99, Bloomingville at Finenordic. Add intricate background detail to floors with a lovely Moon Geometric **rug**, £35, Urban Outfitters



‘For a grown-up twist, use different shades of pink and layer in patterns with hints of white.’

KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES,
INTERIORS EDITOR

SUN-KISSED PASTEL

Team barely-there prints and beautiful accessories in pale shades that appear faded by the sun



1



2



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4



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6



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8



9

1 Smudged stripes are gorgeous against a cream background. Watercolour **mug**, £10, Anthropologie **2** Disappearing into the surface, this unusual piece will look smart in a contemporary kitchen or living room. Menu Stand **clock**, £44, The Scandinavian Shop **3** Outside furniture needn't be run of the mill. Enjoy the sun in this Big Circle **garden chair**, £150, Out There Interiors **4** Canvas block-printed **storage pots** come in a range of sizes, from £20, Bohemia **5** The small-scale geometric patterns on this Heavenly Honeycomb **cushion cover** in Rose, £40.99, Rym, will bring a great finishing touch to your sofa **6** The Alhambra Stars Rosebud **fabric**, £45 a metre, Korla, has a gentle kaleidoscopic effect **7** Be ready for the chilly autumn evenings. Zara Home's pink cotton knit **blanket**, £59.99, is exquisite **8** Separate and organise your kitchen ingredients with bamboo-lidded stackable **bowls**, £46 for three, Amara **9** Odds and ends will fit nicely into this handy **trinket box**, £29.50, part of the Conran collection at Marks & Spencer

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100% GREY COVERAGE

DESIGN NEWS

From stylish sleeping to acacia chopping boards, find a wealth of ideas for your home



SOURCEBOOK

As regular house prices were well beyond her reach, Sarah Thompson bought an ex-council house in Dorset in 2007. Now she's written *Style Council* (£18.99, Square Peg) showing other inspiring ex-council interiors.

3 of the best...

DESIGNER DOG BEDS



Cecil in Pug or Dachshund by Fenella Smith for sofa.com, £230 for regular; £270 for large



Raised **rattan** with a grey wash finish and lattice detail by Charley Chau, from £225



Letto in bent aluminium and wood veneer, £720, by Gerd Couchuyt for Miacara

WORDS JULIA EVANS

FRESH FIELDS

Neutral and simple with just a few pops of colourful fun, this Abacus Stripe wallpaper, from the new Papavera collection at Sanderson, comes in four colourways and costs £36 a roll.



NEW LOOKS



DESIGNER LINEN

Enjoy a good night's sleep in Ted Baker's Go to Bed with Ted, catwalk-inspired bedlinen. The collection includes Marble (above), Tile Floral, Pure Peony, and Shadow Floral, all in 220-thread-count cotton sateen, from £35 for a pair of pillowcases.

HOT PICKS



1



2



3



4

1 SQUASHY SOFA Lounge in style on Loaf's new Pudding sofa. It comes in three sizes and 120 fabrics; an armchair and loveseat are also available.

2 INSECT LIFE Bring the garden indoors with this colourful ladybird linen cotton cushion, £32, Indigo and Rose.

3 ARTISAN INSPIRATION Simple acacia wooden chopping boards, £29 for small, and £38 for large,

are part of a new homewares brand, Murmur, launched by Bedeck. The collection includes ceramics, bedlinen, basketware, glassware, textiles and more, all in a pared-back palette with an artisan feel. These items are available from 10 September.

4 RADIATING STYLE Designed by Jamie Graham, this Sophia blonde ash round-back chair is as comfortable as it is beautiful, £495, Graham and Green.

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BARGAIN NEWS

A round-up of the hottest homewares – all at great prices



BLING-TASTIC

Enjoy golden moments with this range of barware from John Lewis. It includes a gold metal pineapple ice bucket, £25; Boutique Hotel brass-plated ice tongs, £4; a Miami stainless-steel cocktail shaker, £25; and gold-rimmed Martini glasses, champagne flutes and saucers at £4 each. Don't forget the Bombay Cafe hammered gold metal coasters, £3, John Lewis.



Treat yourself...

...to this striking colour-block Chroma magazine file, £15, from Caroline Gardner.



NEW IN

COUNTRY STYLE

Corinium (left) is a new collection of rustic, crackle-glazed cream stoneware from Neptune. It ranges from jugs at £10, serving platters, £18, and lidded jars, £48, to serving bowls at £74, large lamp bases, £147, and extra-tall pots, £220.



2

ACCENT PIECES



1

1 PERFECT PARTNERS For that subtle touch, add these ceramic casseroles in soft pastel shades to your cookware. £12 for a cocotte-size; £21 for small; £23 for medium and £27 for large, by Bitossi Home for Unique and Unity.

2 NATURAL ORIGINS This simple bamboo lamp, £40, designed by Ilse Crawford, is from Ikea's new Sinnerlig range

of homewares made from bamboo, seagrass and cork.

3 SNUG FIT Where space and budget are tight, the Jemima button-backed grey sofa, £179, Tesco, is a good solution.

4 FOLK LORE Add a dash of gypsy flair to your dining table with folk embroidered placemat, £6 each. A matching runner, £29.50, is also available; both Marks & Spencer.



3



4

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**AGEING HAIR?
DEFY TIME WITH THE
COLOUR BRITAIN'S
RAVING ABOUT**



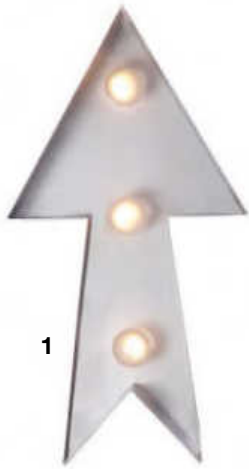
“ One of the **best hair colours** I have ever used.
Less dryness, less frizz...
more vibrancy & shine!

Covers my grey
perfectly. ”

**nice'n
easy**

AgeDefy

ON TREND



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9

ALL MAPPED OUT

Find your way with chic direction and destination accessories

1 Point in the right direction with this quirky Arrow Metal **table lamp** (H50cm). It can be wall hung or placed as part of an arrangement on the floor or desk, £95, BHS **2** Depicting town centres in relief, the Elitis Chance Maps **wallpaper**, £269.80 a metre, from Houseology, creates a real statement **3** Let England's capital come alive with this George London Map **pendant**, £12.99, Dunelm **4** Plan your journey over a cuppa with the Nautical Discovery Map **mug**, £5, Linea at House of Fraser **5** Draw your own view of the world (using chalk provided in the bag) on this **globe**, £15, George Home **6** There are 300 experiences outlined in the Adventure Awaits booklet that accompanies the Adventure **travel map**, £25, The Great Gift Company. Scratch them off as you complete them **7** Keep dry in the rain with this London Vintage Map **umbrella**, £135, The Conran Shop **8** Dress up your sofa with the Vintage Map print **cushion**, £12, Very **9** Get comfortable with your newest travel book on this Latitude Accent **chair**, £599, DFS

WORDS LUCY BIRCH

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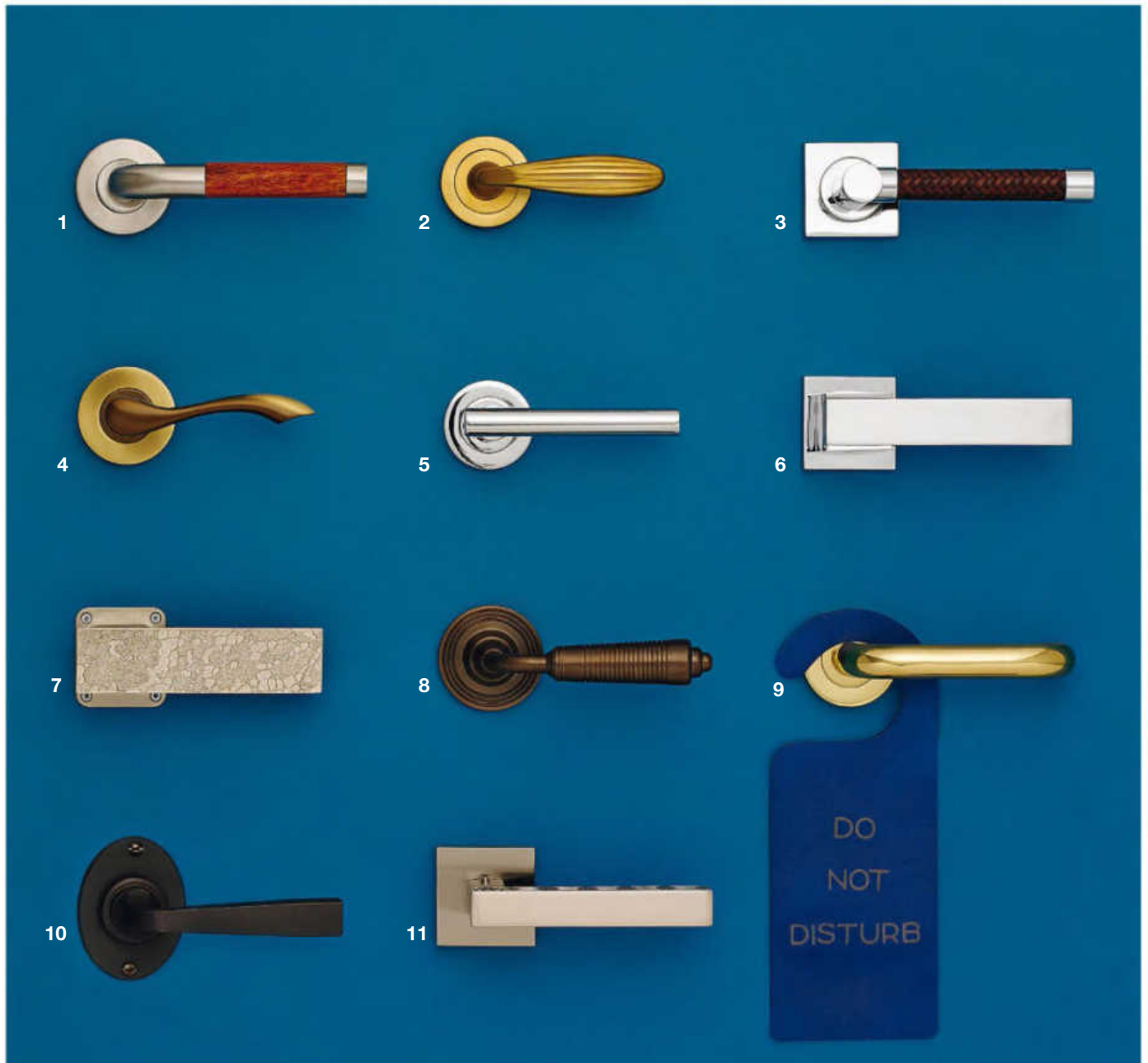
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DECO UPDATE



WORDS AND STYLING JOANNA THORNHILL. PHOTOGRAPH PAVEL DORNAK FOR HEARST STUDIOS

DOOR HANDLES

Smarten up your interior doors with a new design

1 Get a coordinated look with this design on a beechwood door. **Satin nickel and beech-effect** lever latch handle, £17 a pair, B&Q **2** Add period-style detailing with the Laura Ashley **Ribbed Round Rose** handle, £28.99 a pair, Homebase **3** The **Recess leather woven barrel** door lever, £206 a pair by Turnstyle Designs, is wonderfully tactile **4** A subtle dual finish marries two on-trend metallics in one design. **Brook Designer brass round rose** door handle, £23 a pair, Loxta **5** If you want a contemporary look, the slimline **Petra lever rose**, £25 a pair from John Lewis, is a great choice **6** Make a style statement with the chunky Oro&Oro **Tivoli** door handle, £32.50 a pair, Las Maneta **7** Get a bespoke look with the exquisite hand-cast **Duchess matt nickel** lever handle, £295 each by Haute Déco, which has a floral motif **8** Capture the burnished metals trend with the **Contour bronze** lever handle, £160 a pair, Samuel Heath **9** A flash of polished brass provides a touch of luxe. **Tubular Return** lever door handle, £35.88 a pair, Locks & Handles **10** Opt for rustic charm with the **Manson handle** with hammered oval plate, £88 a pair, Jim Lawrence **11** The **Pizzoni** lever on rose handle, £46.20 a pair by Handsome Handles, has a subtle geometric pattern on the top

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



In the detail
Set the table and the mood for your room with natural linens, pretty patterned glass and handmade ceramics

Indian summer

Let the feel of warm evenings linger in your home with schemes that glow with burnished metallics and rich ochre



Golden tones A TILE-EFFECT WALLPAPER IN MELLOW YELLOW PROVIDES A VIBRANT BACKDROP TO A RUSTIC TABLE. BRASS PENDANT LIGHTS ADD A GORGEOUS GLOW FROM ABOVE

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

Passage to India

Offset metallic wallpaper in deep gold against white
woodwork and a pale yellow
tiled floor for a bright and
elegant entrance hall



Warm glow A DARK WOOD FLOOR AND TEXTURED WALLPAPER PROVIDE A PERFECT BASE FOR THIS OPULENT LOOK. UP THE LUXE FACTOR WITH RICH FABRICS AND GOLD ACCESSORIES



Modern mix MARBLE-EFFECT WALLPAPER CREATES A STRIKING FOCAL POINT. YELLOW LINEN CURTAINS CAST A RICH, GOLDEN GLOW AND DARK WOOD FURNITURE ADDS DEPTH AND DRAMA TO THE SCHEME





Bold contrast

A dramatic wall mural provides a stunning backdrop for this shapely and palatial bed. Keep bedlinen simple so as not to overcomplicate the look

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

Where to buy everything



In the detail

Washed linen **napkins**, £9.95 each, Toast. Helianthus **goblets**, £6 each, Anthropologie. Mali ceramic dinner **plates**, £34.95 each; Mali ceramic **bowls**, £24.96 each; Mali ceramic **slanting jug**, £19.95; all Nkuku. Artisan wood dinner **plate**, £14.95; Ouma **ceramic jug**, £21; Earth **bowl**, £13.95; all Luma. Two-tone zinc **vase**, £35, French Connection. **Tumbler** in Amber (used as vase), £22.50, English Antique Glass. Brushed Gold **cutlery**, £16 for a set of four, Rockett St George

Golden tones

Albamarle **wallpaper** in Piccadilly, £85 for 10m, Cole & Son. Industrial hairpin leg **table**, £450; Vintage glass-fronted painted **armoire**, £540; both Home Barn. Geronimo **chairs** in Gunmetal, £290 for a pair, Loaf. Kara **stool** (on right), £119, Toast. Briggs **adjustable stool** (on left), £149; **Cow chair** in reclaimed teak (under window), £49; both Out & Out Original. Stanley hammered **brass pendants**, from £299 for small, Original BTC. **Velvet and linen cushions** in Mustard, £35 each, Graham and Green. **Cushion** (on Cow chair) made up in Plain Weave Linen in Chinese Yellow, £35 a metre, Volga Linen. **In armoire** Large gold and white ceramic pot, £68, Joanna Wood. Yellow glass bottle, £75, Do South Shop. Neu pitcher in large, £49, Ferm Living



Passage to India

Wilderness **wallpaper** in Gold, £65 for 10m, Ferm Living. **Walls** painted in Pure Brilliant White emulsion, £13.99 for 2.5L, Dulux. **Woodwork** painted in Ammonite Estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Oropesa reclaimed **floor tiles**, £240 a sq metre, Bert & May. Victorian **cabinet**, £595, Home Barn. **Mirror**, £148, Anthropologie. **On cabinet (l-r)** Gold and white pot, £68, Joanna Wood. Ginger jar, £65, Pastel Lane. Milk jug, £21.95, Luma. Spice pots, from £70 each, Trunk Home. Yellow glass bottle, £75, Do South Shop. **Bag**, stylist's own

Warm glow

C&S Foundation **wallpaper** in Tweed, £72 for 10m, Cole & Son. Holly **chair** in Undyed Broad Weave Linen, £1,900, sofa.com. Nixon cocktail **table**, £1,950, Jonathan Adler. Carrara **rug**, £8,424, Tai Ping Carpets. Chelsea **console table**, £399, Content by Terence Conran. Bespoke **armchairs** by Woodcliffe Upholsters in Palais Chartreuse, £49 a metre, Clarke & Clarke. **Mirror**, £235, Joanna Wood. Lotus pendant **light**, £199, M&S. Brass **cube**, £1,200, Trunk Home. **Cushions on sofa (l-r)** Marble, £59, Ferm Living. Linen cover, £49, Toast. Velvet and linen backed rectangular, £30, Graham and Green. Patterned, £49, Boconcept. Sol, £85, Mind the Cork. Gold stripes, £65, Jill Kirkham. **Throw**, £175, Holly's House. Stripe **cushion** (on armchair), £49, Luma. **Patterned cushion** (on other armchair), £20, Habitat. **On console table** Bottle vase, £49, Rockett St George. Platypus lamp, £199, Graham and Green. **On round table** Vase, £75, Do South Shop. Cake stand, £35, Habitat



Modern mix

Marble **wallpaper**, £65 for 10m, Ferm Living. Trestle **table**, £365, French Connection. Noor **armchair**, £350, Trunk Home. **Curtains** made up in Plain Weave Linen in Chinese Yellow, £35 a metre, Volga Linen. **Rug**, £295, Graham and Green. Wire **basket**, £52, Ferm Living. Locker Room **shelf**, £69.95, Nkuku. Marble **light**, £170, Out There Interiors. Feather Collection **frame**, £70, Home Barn. **On desk** Hexagon pots, from £32; Brass pencil holder, £72; all Ferm Living. Marble ornaments, from £15, Holly's House. Root bowl, £24, Luma. Journal, £34, Anthropologie. **On ledge** Vintage stencil, £15, Home Barn. Gia bag, £170, M Hulot. **On shelf** Mindful London **book**, £12.99, Anthropologie. Etched Ethnic vase, £24, Rockett St George. Other accessories, stylist's own

Bold contrast

Waterfall in a High Mountain **mural**, from £60, Surface View. Ortez **floor tiles**, £300 a sq metre, Bert & May. Roser double divan **bed** upholstered in Zimmer and Rohde Saga, £4,811, Button & Sprung. Marble **coffee table**, £120, Rockett St George. Chisel **light**, £120; Brass **cube**, £1,200; both Trunk Home. Ticking Stripe **duvet cover**, £99 for a king size; Ticking **Stripe pillowcases**, £17 each; Washed **Lace pillowcases**, £24 each; all Toast. Yellow **cushions**, £35 each, Graham and Green. **On table** Jilin bowl, £55, Trunk Home. Lantern candle, £24, Anthropologie. **On cube** Fossil slab, £80, Trunk Home. Beads, stylist's own

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY PAGE**

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IN WITH THE OLD...

...and out with the new. That could be Alys Fowler's motto for furnishing her home, where only things with a history are welcomed

WORDS KERRY FOWLER PHOTOGRAPHY JESS AND MARTIN AMORFO



Every surface in Alys's home is covered with quirky ornaments

Step into Alys Fowler's treasure-filled terrace home, through to her bountiful free-spirited garden and you see what she's all about: colour, abundance and collecting things that bring richness to her life.

'We're both magpies,' says Alys, 37, who's lived with her artist husband, Holiday, 44, and her Jack Russell, Isobel, in their red-brick home in Birmingham for almost a decade.

'Our house is quite eclectic – somebody once said it's like a gently curated junk shop, and I'm still trying to work out if that's a compliment or not. Probably not!

'My garden is much like my house. It has way too much of everything of in it. It's not a designed garden, there's no symmetry: it's wild-looking, fertile and rich. It gives as much

back to the wildlife as it does to me.' Alys has been mad about plants, living creatures and happy green spaces since she was little and living in Hampshire. Aged eight, she started to garden, inspired by her mother Elizabeth's drive and love of planting, and colour.

'Mum is a practical woman and that's rubbed off,' says Alys, who went on to study at the Royal Horticultural Society and New York Botanical Garden before presenting *Gardeners' World*, *The Edible Garden* and *Great British Garden Revival*. 'Mum has a big garden as well as acres and acres of wild flowers. She's very laid back about the style – it looks like a wonderful, rich tapestry. We're both inherently cottage gardeners. Neither of us is into clipping – I can't see us

taking up topiary!' Inside her, as she puts it, 'very ordinary, Coronation Street-style terrace,' there's not much pruning going on, either.

'It seems to me that you're either one of life's collectors or you're not,' Alys says. 'I like to be able to fill up our home with finds that please me. Every surface has something on it; our house would make a minimalist scream.'

'I like things I've found on adventures. Last year I went to Kazakhstan to look for wild apples, and now have a piece of heartwood from an apple tree that had been broken up by bears that were trying to get the fruit. And I spent a couple of lovely days down at Dungeness writing about the gardener and film director Derek Jarman, and picked

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Alys's garden reflects
her house – with
'way too much of
everything in it'





up lots of bleached shells from the beach and made a little installation from them.'

Happily her passion for lucky discoveries and old things is shared with Holiday. 'It doesn't please us to have new things in our lives,' says Alys. Each rules over a different area of the home. 'We're both stubborn so he mainly gets the interior, and I get the garden. And neither one can comment on the other's space, but that doesn't always work... His studio is indoors and is the most horrific mess. Every now and then when he's away I go and secretly tidy things up and afterwards you can maybe swing a cat.'

Alys's own space for writing her gardening books – or the one she's been working on recently about Birmingham canals – is at the

'I like to fill up our home with things that really please me,'

SAYS ALYS

back of the house. The walls are lined with prints and paintings, and every day she sits down to work in her comfy oak ladderback chair inherited from her grandfather.

'We turned our big downstairs bathroom into a small one and the rest into my office space,' says Alys. 'I can't see the garden when I'm at my computer, but that's a good thing because if I can see it I can't write: I always want to be outside doing something.'

'I have a good soil and micro system and let the garden decide what it looks like. Let nature play her own tricks and it always looks better. It's also less stressful, because you're not doing so much work!'

In summer her garden is awash with flowers, humming with the sound of bees

Alys and Holiday share a passion for vintage finds and things with history attached



and bursting with wonderful ingredients for supper. 'It's a glut of carrots, beans, peas, courgettes, tomatoes, globe artichokes, loads of salads and herbs. We eat well from our garden and we have an allotment. I do all the cooking and am territorial about the kitchen. I love taking an hour in the evening to cook.

'I try to not wear good clothes when I'm gardening – I tend to wreck everything – I'm not sensible and have gone into the garden wearing an evening dress on the way out somewhere and got mud on it.' Alys loves vintage clothing, finding it more interesting to collect and cultivate her own look. 'I like old clothes just as I like old things: I wonder who made the dress, or what they were thinking about when they were making it,' she says. 'I

met Quentin Crisp in New York and he told me that fashion isn't something to chase: you should have a strong sense of what suits you.'

Alys's gardening style is harmonious and never short on imagination. Her advice for anyone starting out with a blank canvas is to dabble in a bit of daydreaming.

'It's hard to start when there's nothing in place,' she says. 'So imagine what it would be like if you could dream your garden. If you walked through a space, how would it be? Would it have nice places to sit? Do you want to be hidden from the world or see out? Be in the sun or have a nice shady spot? When you have a picture of what you want, draw it out.' Her own garden is an eternally evolving picture, depending on the seasons, how the

plants behave, and sometimes a new creative project. 'I just want the garden to carry on looking the way it does, or maybe a bit less dishevelled each year,' she says.

'I'm planning to build a glass-fronted garden room at the end of the plot with a green roof, possibly planted with maritime alpine for diversity. The idea is that when you look down the garden there will be a mirrored reflection in the glass and the green roof will make it look as though it runs on for ever.'

Wonderment is at the heart of Alys's garden and her home, that and a sense of continuity. 'I like old things that have some kind of story. I like being able to touch things that mattered to me or things people have given me that make me smile.' **HB**

Inside guide to BED DESIGN

Tips, advice, inspiration and trends from the experts to help you choose the perfect bed



Four-poster from
the Pinner range,
£985, Heal's



BOLD OUTLINES

KIRSTY WHYTE

Product and design manager at Heal's, Kirsty is part of the in-house design studio, developing ranges with external designers.

INSPIRATION I find I'm constantly photographing or screen-printing visual cues that will trigger an idea about a design detail. Materials and the making process fascinate me. I'm passionate about using the material to its full potential and looking at the problem-solving element of model making. Even as a child I was really interested in this side of things and I'd make robots from loo rolls with my mum! I also love going around vintage markets and charity shops, as you never know what little detail you might discover.

TRENDS We've incorporated a trend for stained and painted timber into our new Pinner range (left) by simplifying the traditional turned wood leg details and using a dark, Atlantic blue colour to add sophistication. We've also used a lot of velvet in subtle tones to emphasise the curve and surface of the upholstered pieces. I love the jewel-like quality of the Heal's Cocoon bed. Monochrome continues to be a key trend, with bold outlines and geometric shapes. This is reflected in the Abacus range, through refined detailing and simple outlines in black or white.

FAVOURITE That has to be the Risborough bed by Ercol and I have one of these myself. It embodies the Ercol look that's synonymous with mid-century design, but the solid wood turned headboard keeps it visually clutter-free with Shaker influences. **TIP** Choose a bed that's simple in style. It's an investment for the future and you can then dress it to your taste and refresh your bedroom look with new bedlinen. If you're tight on space, use the under-bed area for storage. I keep my spare bedcovers and towels in boxes there.

Eliza double bedstead in Nickel, £695, Button & Sprung



BUTTONED COMFORT

ADAM BLACK

Co-founder of Feather & Black, Adam also helped launch Secret Linen Store, and a year ago set up Button & Sprung.

INSPIRATION I love sourcing and creating high quality homewares. Trend cycles and the way fashion history repeats itself intrigues me. When we launched Feather & Black, I spent hours in the National Art Library in the V&A looking at 1920s copies of Heal's catalogues seeking ideas for Shaker cabinet ranges. Today, I spend hours on the

websites of retailers in US, Italy and Japan looking at design innovations. It's important to keep tabs on the market and understand what today's customers want. Tastes and practical requirements evolve constantly. **TRENDS** Customers love our Eliza bedstead (above). Grander headboard options are increasingly popular and our deep-buttoned Camelia is a top seller. We offer customers great flexibility when they buy a bedstead or divan from us as we can customise fabric coverings and storage options. Our mattresses are pocket sprung and filled with British-grown hemp and Herdwick wool, which has anti-microbial, anti-bacterial and anti-fungal qualities, making them ideal for asthma or allergy sufferers. We've also replaced imported cotton with flax to produce a breathable, temperature-responsive, carbon-neutral product. **FAVOURITE** The Champion bed upholstered in Korla's Cubes fabric captures the geometric trend. It's quite boisterous! **TIP** Buy the biggest bed your room will accommodate and the best mattress you can afford.

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VINTAGE LUXURY

GEORGIA METCALFE

With an architect father and interior designer mother, design has always been part of Georgia's life. She founded The French Bedroom Company nine years ago.

INSPIRATION It's everywhere – on a 16th-century carving, a piece of jewellery, a work of art, a peony in bloom, ruffles on lingerie, even the female body! I love to mix up colours and textures to create beautiful and unusual pieces. We're working on the design of a gold bed upholstered in a delicate pink velvet and I showed my

daughter's pink satin ballet shoes to the fabric mill to colour-match the pink.

TRENDS There's a movement towards a darker colour palette. Customers' colour choices are getting braver and more sophisticated. Trends are moving away from being soft, light and safe to deep, rich and bold. To match this, we've introduced two statement beds – the Walton bed and the Studs and Buttons bed. Each has its own strong shape in gorgeous dark grey hues.

FAVOURITE The Versailles (above) as I can't resist the luxurious textures of silks, satins and velvets. I love to juxtapose these with treasured and 'found' items such as heirlooms, vintage pieces and auction house gems. A wonderful French chandelier and gold cherubs are the perfect match for a buttoned, silk upholstered bed – all about the chic, less about the shabby!

TIP Your bed is an investment buy, so make sure it will stand the test of time in terms of both style and quality. Ensure it's well made and solid and think about how your tastes might change over the years. Choose bedlinen that's sumptuous and special.



SIMPLY PARED BACK

WARREN EVANS

After a spell labouring in a timber yard as a teen, Warren knew he wanted to work with wood and, aged 17, started making beds.

Today there are 13 Warren Evans showrooms and a workshop.

INSPIRATION I'm inspired daily by people in our showrooms. Their ideas about what's needed in practice can turn designing a bed into a challenge. Creating beautiful, ethically sourced, affordable, solid wood furnishings drives me. A good product will last for years and this sustainable nature is key. The colours, textures and vibrancy of buildings and interiors in India also inspire me.

TRENDS The traditional-looking bed, with a contemporary twist is probably the most popular. Customers like a large headboard for comfort and to make a centrepiece. Our slatted beds are popular as they answer these design and style needs. Also popular are the Sunday and Shaker beds with large, simple headboards. People also want more space or the feeling of it. We've designed a space-saving range where the elements of the frame are hidden beneath the mattress. **FAVOURITE** The Verona (below) inspired by the curvy lines of art nouveau. Its super-large headboard makes it ideal for lazy weekends. **TIP** Spend at least 10 minutes on a bed before deciding whether it's right for you.



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THREE TO WATCH



TIP Buy a bed that makes you smile. Our Emma bed reminds me of the *Bedknobs and Broomsticks* film and takes me to the Island of Naboombu

FRENCH CHIC AMANDA OLDFIELD

When Amanda moved to Norfolk in 2004, she bought two expensive but poor-quality beds. That prompted her and her husband to set up the Wrought Iron & Brass Bed Co, where beds are guaranteed for the buyer's lifetime.

INSPIRATION Our designs originate from the Norfolk country cottage and town villa houses of the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Simple, built to last and in a variety of colours.

TRENDS We've developed a range of brass and nickel beds such as the Tara (right).

We're led by our customers, who like to discuss their individual requirements with us.

FAVOURITE Our Boxer dog George's French blue steel dog bed. It's kept in our office.



Tara double,
£1,995,
Wrought Iron
& Brass Bed Co



TIP Check if the bed you're buying is a standard UK size. Some companies offer irregular sizes, so your mattress might not fit the base and you'll be limited with bedlinen

BOUTIQUE STYLE CHARLIE MARSHALL

Six years ago Charlie set up one-stop bed company Loaf, introducing sofas and bedroom furniture in 2012.

INSPIRATION Dutch architecture is a great influence. I love the design ethic that feels like an informal and interesting marriage between American and European style.

TRENDS French-inspired beds and headboards are still going down a storm due to their timeless appeal. They give that lovely boutique-hotel feel – a new French bed has all of the chic and none of the squeak of an original antique version.

FAVOURITE Our Dazzler bed. My daughter has got it in her bedroom, so it reminds me of happy pillow fights and bedtime reading!



Lou-Lou French
sleigh bed, from
£845 for a
double, Loaf



TIP Create a lavish statement with headboard wings. Our designs come with the option to add a storage ottoman to keep your bedroom clutter-free

MULTI-FUNCTION COMFORT SARAH HUMPHREYS

Cabinet and bed buyer Sarah joined DFS straight after university nine years ago.

INSPIRATION Furniture exhibitions in Milan, Shanghai and Cologne. Every minute I'm thinking of new ideas, whether visiting friends' houses, clothes shops or websites.

TRENDS Our customers want the latest looks, textures and colours at prices they can afford. Storage options/solutions and multi-functional TV beds that can be adjusted are becoming popular to make the most of limited space.

FAVOURITE The Benedict bed from the range we've created with House Beautiful. The headboard wings and a sumptuous cushion finish give it a lovely elegant look. I've got it at home in the guest room. **HB**



Jules double, £599,
House Beautiful
collection at DFS

ROYAL HERITAGE

Once the home of Queen Victoria's daughter, this house has been reclaimed for modern family living

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS LIVING4MEDIA/STUART COX



EXTERIOR

Jenny and Ian with four of their five children, Kai, Aya, Nell and Luca, outside their Grade II* Listed home

KITCHEN

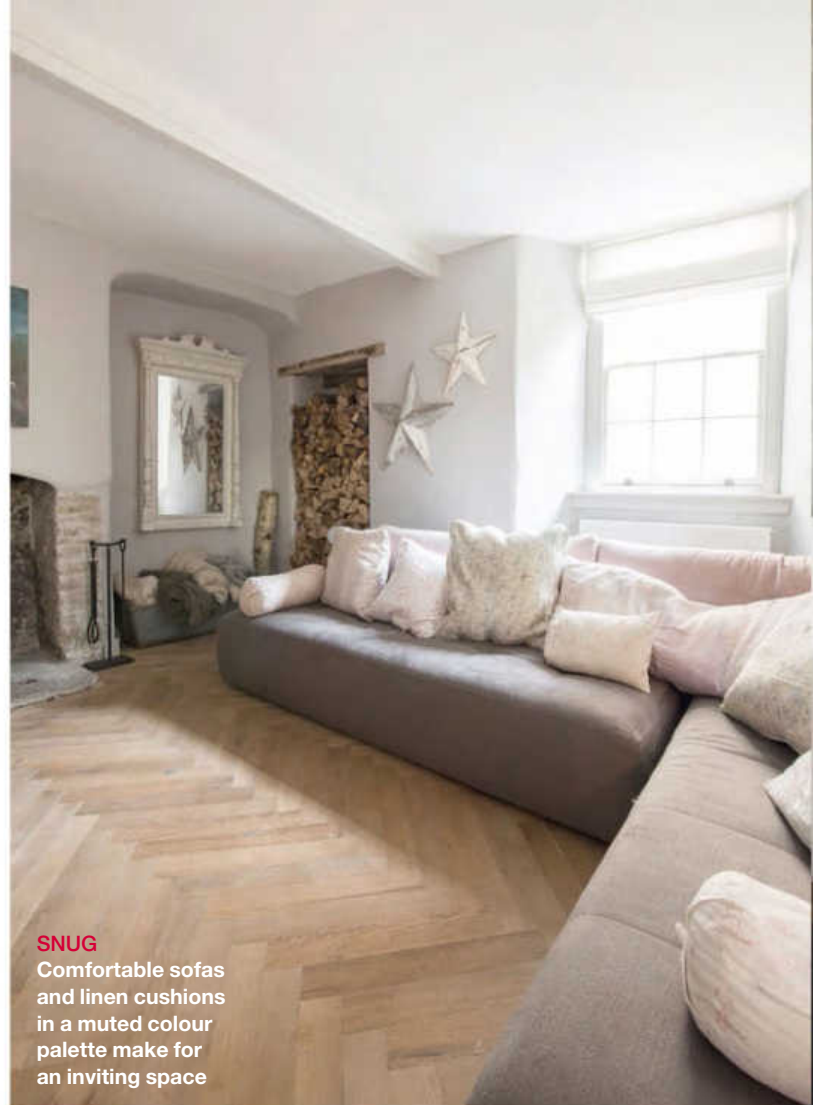
Units were created from reclaimed timbers by TH Furniture. The island is topped with a rustic oak worktop cut from a single tree. The pendant lights are from Davey Lighting





DINING ROOM

Bespoke parquet flooring is made from Polish oak. The Victorian lamp from Frome Reclamation is a striking centrepiece



SNUG

Comfortable sofas and linen cushions in a muted colour palette make for an inviting space

When customers to Jenny Hayes and Ian Callaway's design and build company need an injection of inspiration, they don't have to look far. The couple's own home is a fabulous showcase. Using their expertise and skills, they have transformed Argyll House, a grade II* listed Georgian building in the pretty Somerset market town of Frome, from a dark and dusty solicitor's office into a light and spacious family home and workplace.

'Our clients often visit Argyll House for creative inspiration and ideas,' says Jenny, 39. 'It's important for them to get an idea of what our capabilities are as builders and designers but, more importantly, for them to feel inspired by the light, space and finish to help them achieve their own perfect home.'

Built in 1768 and once the home of Princess Louise, the Duchess of Argyll and daughter of Queen Victoria, the house had over the years seen many uses including, more recently, offices with a maze of small stuffy rooms and disjointed layouts. But Jenny, a designer and stylist, and Ian, a builder, thought it could be a family home and workspace for their business, Apple Build and Design.

'For me, the flow of the house is one of its most important features,' says Jenny. 'Despite it being a rabbit warren of small rooms, we could see the potential for creating a beautiful space.'

Not fazed by the vast amount of work required, Jenny and Ian bought the house, and spent the next six months transforming it.

As it's a listed building, they had to be mindful of maintaining the fabric of the property and employed a firm of local architects, Chedburn Dudley, specialists in building conservation and design, to help them. 'Having a specialist architect on board was the best thing we did,' says Jenny. 'They handled the complex planning and advised us of what we could and couldn't do with the place.'

Once planning was approved, Ian and his team set about transforming the space and stripping it right back to its original Georgian finish. For the first three months, Jenny, Ian and their five children – Kai, 14; Archie, 13; Aya, 12; Nell, 10, and Luca, eight – lived in the adjoining dilapidated coach house with no bathroom and only a small sink and oven. Then, once the structural work was completed on the bedrooms, bathrooms and home office, they moved into the house and Jenny started planning and designing the interiors.

'When I'm working on projects such as this, it's important for me to get a sense of the people who will live there and the place first, rather than having set ideas,' she explains. 'This way the design becomes more evolutionary and is more organic.'

Inspired by her love of vintage French furnishing and colour palettes, as well as the history of the building, Jenny sourced much of the interior materials and furnishing from reclamation yards, vintage shops in France and local shops and designers. Ian's team of builders and extensive 'black book' of contacts means that every fixture and fitting reflects the very best in craftsmanship.

When the many layers of wallpaper were stripped back they revealed the original plasterwork, which was in great condition and offered a bold and interesting array of distressed colours, which Jenny and Ian decided to keep. 'We simply covered them with Polyvine Dead Flat Decorators Varnish to seal them,' explains Ian. To complement the colouring of the walls, Jenny chose a muted palette of paint shades for the woodwork and floorboards, all of which add to the feeling of flow within the house.

The bespoke parquet flooring in the kitchen and dining room is made of Polish oak that has been through seven stages of processing to get the perfect

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‘For me the flow of the home is one of the most important features,’

SAYS JENNY



MAIN BEDROOM
Simple pared-back elegance defines this bedroom with stripped plaster walls and a modern bath



DRESSING AREA
A vintage oak table and reclaimed stool team with an ornate French mirror to create a unique look



WARDROBE SPACE
Jenny opted for an antique shelving unit to store the couple's clothes

**BATHROOM**

Jenny and Ian used beautiful reclaimed timbers to include a small space for a loo

**BOYS' BEDROOM**

Original plaster finish and layers of neutral, natural fabrics on bleached wooden beds create a peaceful space

finish to complement the kitchen units, which are made from reclaimed timbers by Tim Harper Furniture & Joinery in Trowbridge, and topped with a limestone work surface. The island units were painted to give them a distressed finish in Farrow & Ball's Stone Blue and finished with the pièce de résistance – a huge piece of oak, which was sourced from a single tree.

The bold wood-effect wallpaper and modern innovative storage in the home office on the ground floor goes against the style of the rest of the house. 'I wanted to create something that worked for us as a family and a business, that equally reflected all that we are and how we live, which was also in character with the building,' says Jenny. 'It's important for me to have a different space altogether when I'm working; it helps with creativity. With five children and two French bulldogs, it's vital that we have space specifically for work, away from the busy family home.'

For all its vintage reclamation charm, the house has thoughtful contemporary touches including automatic lighting in the large landing areas, floor level sockets and electricity points and hidden cabling. 'We specifically planned the plumbing and electrics carefully to ensure as little chasing in and damage to the original plasterwork on the walls as possible,' says Ian.

Combining the old and new, balancing work and living space and Jenny and Ian's commitment to quality and design have all resulted in a striking home that's as easy and pleasurable to live in as it is to house their business.

'I think we have created a stylish home that is in keeping with the character of the building, and the best thing is that it still works for us as a family,' says Jenny. **HB**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

**SHOWER AREA**

The long trough basin was made with both contemporary and vintage materials by Hiscock Engineers



BE INSPIRED AT HARVEYS

Marcia chair £349 and footstool £169
shown with the Marino rug £299.

harveysfurniture.co.uk

Harveys
the furniture store



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Kitchen featured is Burford Tongue and Groove Grey



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STUNNING CONTRAST

A combination of Victorian period features
and cutting-edge design has created
a striking family home

WORDS FRANCINE BRISCOE PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID WOOLLEY



KITCHEN

Once small and dark, the kitchen is now a light and airy family space, thanks to bi-fold doors and a skylight. The concrete floor and work surface give a modern edge



HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Emily Knibb, 32, a housewife, her architect husband Adam, also 32, and their daughter Felicity, two

THE PROPERTY A three-bed Victorian house in Winchester, with a modern extension

PRICE £285,000

MONEY SPENT About £30,000

WHAT IT'S WORTH NOW
£450,000

CONTINUED OVER PAGE





After six months of searching for the perfect house, Emily and her partner Adam Knibb were on the point of giving up when they came to view a traditional two-bedroom Victorian semi that was well within their £300,000 budget and met most of their criteria. It's just a short walk to the centre of Winchester, has a good-sized garden, off-street parking and the added benefit of the most fabulous views over the South Downs. But while the couple were keen to find somewhere that needed modernising, this one offered a little too much scope for making their mark.

'It needed more work than we thought we could cope with and this put us off initially,' says Emily, 'so we didn't put in an offer immediately. But after a lot of hard thinking, we decided to go for it.'

Although the couple wanted to add more rooms upstairs, increase the size of the kitchen, and completely redecorate throughout, they decided to wait before tackling the work.

'The house was in a good enough condition to live in so we didn't do anything to it for two years, partly because we wanted to get to know it and settle into the area, and partly because Adam was very busy at work,' says Emily. 'Then we decided to get married and planning our wedding took up our time. After we came back from honeymoon though, we were ready to get started.'

Emily and Adam, who met at university, enjoy the idea of mixing traditional and contemporary styles, and had a clear view of how they wanted their new home to look. And as an architect, Adam had some unique ideas about how to achieve it.

'The original house had a tiny upstairs with two small bedrooms and a minuscule bathroom, CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

EXTERIOR AT BACK (above)

The contemporary extension on the back reflects the front of the house, with timber cladding bought from English Woodland Timber



DINING ROOM

Emily and Adam prepared the dining room floorboard finish themselves. They used a mix of varnish and paint to create a soft white effect



LIVING ROOM
The sofa was bought from Dwell to fit snugly in the space



MASTER BEDROOM
A chaise longue handed down through Adam's family is the perfect place to sit and enjoy the views

but lots of living space downstairs. This felt very uneven, so we decided to extend upstairs and add a bedroom, a bathroom and an ensuite, and turn the old bathroom into a bedroom,' he explains. 'I loved the off-street parking so I designed a timber-clad cantilevered box on the first floor that overhangs the car port and gave us the space to have a large master bedroom with ensuite, separate family bathroom and two smaller bedrooms. The contemporary style of the box contrasts with the traditional frontage and gives the house a bit of a 1950s feel, which I like.'

To make the most of the amazing views at the back of the house, the couple installed a huge picture window in the master bedroom, which reaches floor to ceiling. 'As it opens it slides into the wall so it looks as though it disappears, creating a frameless window,' says Emily. 'We can lie in bed and see the South Downs.'

Downstairs the couple kept the original arrangement of the rooms, but injected a modern feel by taking down the wall between the kitchen and dining room to create an open-plan living space.

'Our main aim was to bring more light into the space,' says Emily, 'so we installed large bi-fold doors at one end and replaced an old lean-to with an extension, installing a skylight and floor-length window. Then we put all the work space on one side of the kitchen, and all the play and relaxation areas on the other, with the dining area in the middle.'

In the midst of the renovation Emily discovered she was pregnant. 'We didn't let that stop us as by that point we were desperate to get on with the work – in fact I was still painting as I went into labour!'

Although the couple needed planning permission for the alterations, they had no trouble getting it. 'I was careful to make



BATHROOM
This is in the first-floor extension and hangs over the off-street parking, suspended by a cantilever



MASTER BEDROOM
A huge floor-to-ceiling picture window gives the couple beautiful views over the South Downs

sure the design wouldn't create planning difficulties. We were also fortunate that the planning officer was very forward thinking and liked our design,' says Adam.

His biggest challenge was creating the polished concrete floor and surface in the kitchen. 'I knew it would be much cheaper than other work surfaces and flooring that we liked. It also has a very good thermal mass, heating up with the sun and holding onto that heat for long periods.' Adam saved money by laying the concrete himself. 'I poured it, levelled it, waited for it to dry and polished it. Then I had to repeat the process many times. I remember working until one in the morning – but it was worth it. Emily and I love the way it looks and how it changes colour with the light.'

They also used timber cladding at the back of the kitchen to link the front and rear of the house, going for English chestnut because it starts with a warm colour that eventually silvers. 'I economised by buying the wood direct from the sawmill,' says Adam. 'That and the concrete were our real money savers.'

Now the renovation work is finished Emily admits she's learned a lot. 'It's Adam's area of expertise so he and I had very different approaches to designing the house and going through the build process. I didn't realise there would be so many decisions to make and changes to contend with,' she says. 'But as the build went on, I learned not to lose sight of the original vision of the home we wanted to create, even if I was being asked to make compromises. And now it's finished, I think it all really works!' **HB**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



NURSERY
Felicity's nursery was converted from the old bathroom

LOST TREASURE

By teaming heritage colours with antique pieces and furniture from overseas, one couple created a modern family home in keeping with its historical past

WORDS AND STYLING CLARE WALLACE PHOTOGRAPHY FIONA WALKER-ARNOTT

DINING AREA

Large windows and bi-fold doors, made by Brighton Joinery Workshop, flood the dining area with light. The table and chairs are from antiques shops and flea markets. Andrea found the stunning painted antique sideboard on her travels



HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Andrea Anderson, 41, a career and leadership coach, her husband Jason Walsh, 45, a pilot, and their children, Finn, three, and Jake, five months

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom Victorian mid-terrace in Brighton

PRICE £600,000

MONEY SPENT £60,000

WHAT IT'S WORTH

NOW £800,000

MAKING A MARK

Andrea added character to the house with authentic paint colours



A hankering to live by the sea led Andrea Anderson and her husband Jason to the Brighton property they live in today. They'd visited the seaside resort many times and fell in love with its atmosphere and architecture. After years of living in London, they wanted a different kind of environment in which to bring up their children and the south coast city seemed like the perfect spot. 'It was a decision from the heart,' recalls Andrea. 'It just had a really good feeling.'

Looking at the properties on offer in the local estate agents' windows, they felt spoiled for choice. 'There were so many we liked but when we found this house, not only did it have everything we wanted in a home, it was also in the perfect location. We like being in the centre of town with all the amenities, Preston Park and the station on the doorstep,' Andrea explains. 'Not forgetting the beach, which is only just over a mile's walk away.'

'Of course we loved the property's original features – it has a lot of character for its size. But it was the open and spacious layout that attracted me; and it gave us the opportunity to expand.'

The house was very much a blank canvas when the couple arrived in 2012; every room was painted white. 'It was pleasant but lacked a strong personality. I wanted to use authentic heritage colours to bring some life into it and also be sympathetic to its Victorian roots,' says Andrea. 'It has a wealth of beautiful period features, including marble fireplaces, ceiling mouldings,

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

KITCHEN

Bright decorative tiles from Johnson Tiles add colour and offset the units painted in Fired Earth's Antimony



EXTERIOR

The Victorian house had everything Jason and Andrea were looking for



'I wanted a home that had longevity yet was reflective of ourselves; it's a bohemian mix,' SAYS ANDREA

dado rails and high skirting boards.' Andrea has also been influenced by her travels to countries such as Mexico, Morocco and South Africa, and introduced warmth and light to the property, as well as texture in the form of beautiful tiles, prints and interesting accessories. 'I wanted to create a home that was practical and had longevity, yet was reflective of ourselves, so I'd say it's a bohemian mix,' she explains.

To add even more personality and period charm, Andrea hunted through antiques shops and flea markets to complete the look with collectables, accessories, paintings and curios.

Structurally the building was sound, so the couple's priority was to convert the loft to create an extra bedroom and ensuite bathroom, and this is now Andrea's favourite part of the house. 'It's so lovely and peaceful up there,' she says.

The dated kitchen was ripped out and replaced with new bespoke painted units in keeping with

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

SITTING ROOM

Andrea chose the dramatic yet calming shade of Juniper Ash by Farrow & Ball for the walls. It echoes the dark blue in the velvet sofa which, as well as the sunburst mirror, came from Graham and Green



FINN'S BEDROOM

Walls painted in A Day By The Sea by Fired Earth blend beautifully with the silk curtain fabric from The Cloth House. Andrea bought the rug in Mexico



a Victorian property. In the spacious bathroom, a classic bateau bath and a modern walk-in shower were installed. 'We were advised to use local designer and builder George Birtwell and he was second to none,' says Andrea. 'The plumber and builders were also recommended and Adrian Robins Interiors gave us advice on the paint and stair carpet in the hallway.

'The kitchen had already been extended, but we decided to install new bi-fold doors to open straight out onto the rear walled garden. It was important to get this room right, as we spend so much time in it as a family,' says Andrea.

The beautiful house is testament to the couple's hard work. A key part of the restoration was retaining period features and being true to the property's history, while creating a practical home for modern living. 'I didn't think we'd enjoy the project as much as we did and, as a couple, we worked really well together. Surprisingly, everything went very smoothly!' says Andrea.

'We've achieved what we set out to do; the house feels like a home and we've stamped our personality on it. Now that we have baby Jake as a new addition to the family, it feels complete. This is our dream property, so I think we'll be here for some time yet.' **HB**

LOFT BATHROOM

The cupboard, found on eBay, fits well with the wooden panelling



FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

MAIN BEDROOM

A fireplace provides a stunning focal point. Andrea chose a typical Victorian hospital bed to complement the period features; similar models are available from Feather & Black. Walls are painted in Green Smoke by Farrow & Ball



HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Tessa MacGregor, an artist, 41

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom flat in a Georgian tenement building in the New Town area of Edinburgh

PRICE £430,000

MONEY SPENT £38,000

WHAT IT'S WORTH NOW £585,000

A RELAXING SPACE

Tessa's eclectic room is dominated by her stunning large-scale painting. The sofa from SCP is brightened up with cushions from Ampersand



LIVING ROOM
Tessa chose Abigail
Ahern's Bedford
Brown for the walls,
fireplace surround
and floor. It's the
perfect backdrop for
the The Togo corner
seat in orange velvet



DARKER BY DESIGN

Imaginative shopping and a love of colour have transformed this gorgeous period property into a cosy home

WORDS ALISON GIBB PHOTOGRAPHY DOUGLAS GIBB

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DINING AREA
Tessa has reinstated the fireplace, which had been covered up

As an artist, Tessa MacGregor knows a thing or two about colour, and renovating her gorgeous Grade A-listed flat in Edinburgh gave her the chance to show off some of her talents. For added style inspiration she took a crash course in interior design with designer Abigail Ahern, and that gave her the confidence to use colour in ways she'd never have thought would work successfully in a period property. The end result is rich and dramatic, with surprises in every room. 'It's all about bold combinations of colours and contrasts,' says Tessa.

A native of Edinburgh, Tessa studied at the Chelsea School of Art and then the London Art School and continued to live in the capital for 22 years after graduating. 'Although my London flat was central, it was also tiny and I knew that with the profit from selling it I could buy somewhere much more spacious in Edinburgh,' she explains.

Within a week of looking – and after viewing only two other properties – she walked into this airy flat and knew it was right for her. 'It was in a dreadful condition, but I liked the classic layout and the fact that all the original features, including the doors and door handles, were intact,' she says. 'I knew exactly what I wanted to do with it: add drama and colour and reveal its history. I really loved the flagstones in the hall and the kitchen, for instance, and was keen to preserve them as they were perfect for the bohemian atmosphere I wanted to create.'

Tessa contacted John Hoadley, the builder who'd done work on her London flat, and

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KITCHEN

The birdcage lampshade from Graham and Green adds a touch of fun to the room. Tessa painted the existing cabinet doors in Mole by Abigail Ahern and used brass handles in a mix of styles



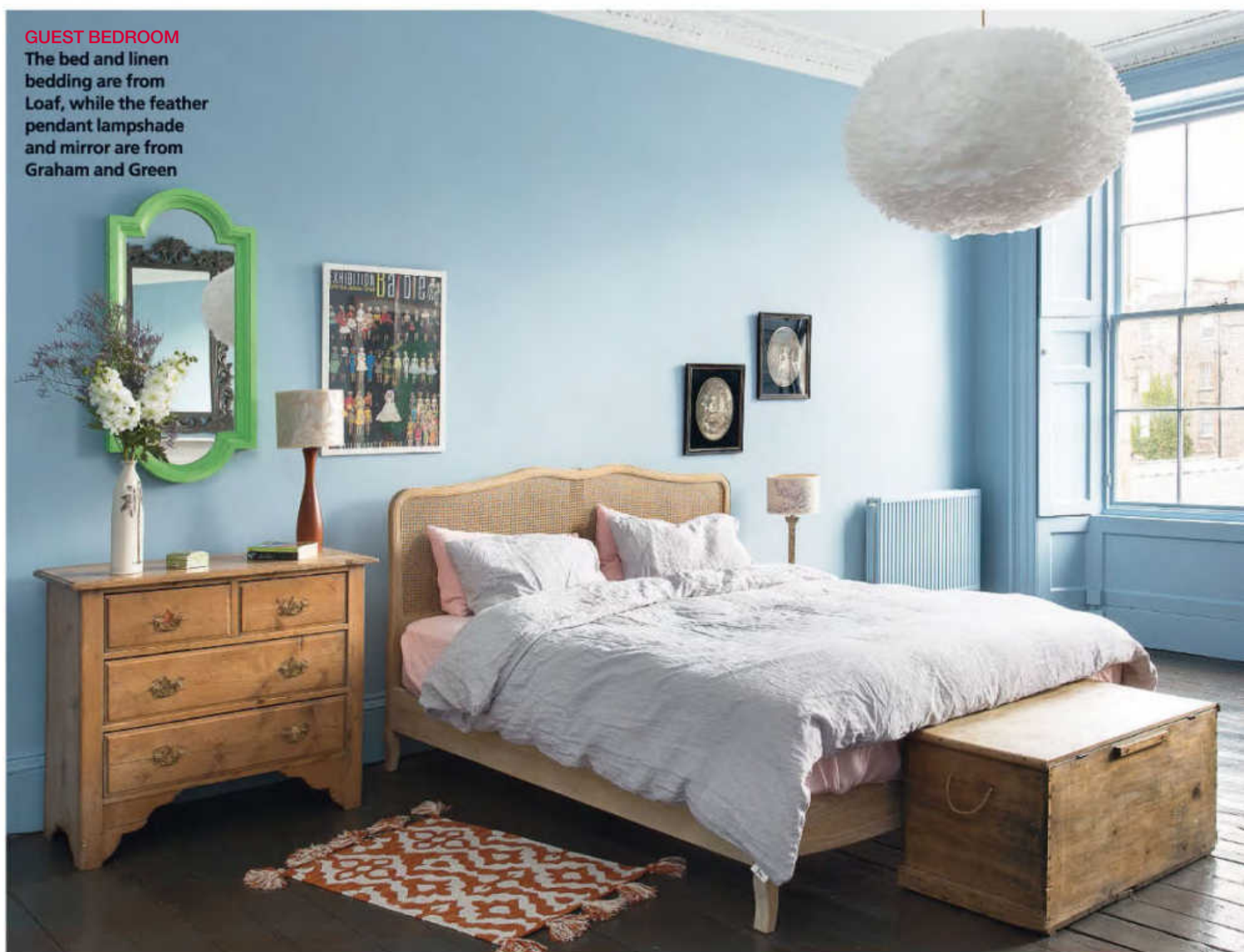
‘I used paints to highlight the furniture and objects
and add a touch of mystery,’ SAYS TESSA



BOHEMIAN CORNER
Closer inspection reveals a
subtle chequerboard effect
on the floor in the guest
bedroom. The walls and
shutters are in Lulworth
Blue by Farrow & Ball. One
of Tessa's paintings hangs
on the wall and the bowl
beside the fireplace is by
artist Julie Goldsmith

GUEST BEDROOM

The bed and linen bedding are from Loaf, while the feather pendant lampshade and mirror are from Graham and Green



persuaded him to tackle this new project. Together they got to grips with the work as soon as the sale went through in March last year. 'I just threw myself into it!' she says. 'After being on the Abigail Ahern masterclass I was just brimming with ideas.'

Fortunately Tessa was happy with the layout of the property, as in a listed building even minor alterations are subject to planning permission, and she did have to get approval to install a new bathroom.

In the kitchen she simply painted the existing cabinets but was surprised to discover that when she removed some wall cupboards the crumbling plaster beneath revealed beautiful brickwork. Her builder had the idea of leaving it exposed to make it a feature of the room and then made shelving to fit from polished scaffolding planks mounted on shiny brass brackets.

After the flat had been rewired and replumbed, a new boiler installed and the floorboards sanded, Tessa was ready to get down to decorating her new home.

'I love forests and dark landscapes and that influenced my choice of colour. Abigail encouraged us to paint everything one colour – walls, skirting boards, radiators, fireplaces – for a "cocooning effect",' says Tessa. 'I haven't quite done that, preferring to keep the ceilings and cornicing white in most of the rooms, but what I have done certainly works. It highlights the furniture and objects and adds a touch of mystery. I think this technique would work well in both large and small rooms as it pulls big spaces together and in a small space is less fussy. For instance,

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

WORK STATION

In a corner of the guest bedroom, Tessa has created a small office area that's handy for book storage



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MAIN BEDROOM

Tessa chose Cabbage White by Farrow & Ball for the walls with a wrought-iron bed from Habitat and bedding from Cath Kidston. She started to strip the fireplace but it was in such bad condition she gave up and painted it in Farrow & Ball's Yellowcake instead



I painted the hallway and kitchen ceilings in the same rich, dark colours as the walls, but I felt the sitting room was just too large for this approach, and that a white ceiling and cornice breaks it up a bit.'

Tessa's budget was fairly tight as it was limited to the profit she'd made from her London flat, and she says this helped to make her more creative in her furniture choices. She mixed buys from the big DIY warehouses with quirkier items from Graham and Green – one of her favourite shops – and vintage pieces from antiques shops and eBay as well as family heirlooms from her mother's attic.

'Careful shopping can really pay off,' she says. 'For instance, everything in my bathroom came from B&Q and I'm delighted with it. Also, painting existing furniture and fittings is a great way to stamp your individuality on a home. I'm not a perfectionist so I'm quite happy with furniture that's a bit rough around the edges.'

Tessa's strong style is complemented, of course, by her paintings, which take pride of place in her home, together with work from her artist friends. 'Tim Walker's amazing photography for *Vogue* is a huge inspiration to me,' Tessa admits. 'I love anything magical and fantastical.' Cities, too, inspire her. 'Edinburgh and London both,' she says. 'I love the dark corners, and I've brought that idea into my paintings and now into my home.' **HB**

● See Tessa's work at artlab-gallery.co.uk. For more information on John Hoadley visit mastertrade.co.uk

BATHROOM

Italian tiles and fittings from B&Q continue the bohemian feel in the bathroom





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Julia Goodwin, House Beautiful Editor and Creative Director for House Beautiful Homes

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BRICKS + MONEY

Stay up to date with the latest property and financial news

FINDING THE PLOT

Many of us are tempted to build the home of our dreams, but tracking down the right plot can be the biggest challenge

'It takes 12-18 months to find and secure a plot and get planning permission,' says Raymond Connor, chief executive of self-build company BuildStore (buildstore.co.uk). 'So it's worth beginning your search early,' he advises. Here's how to get started.

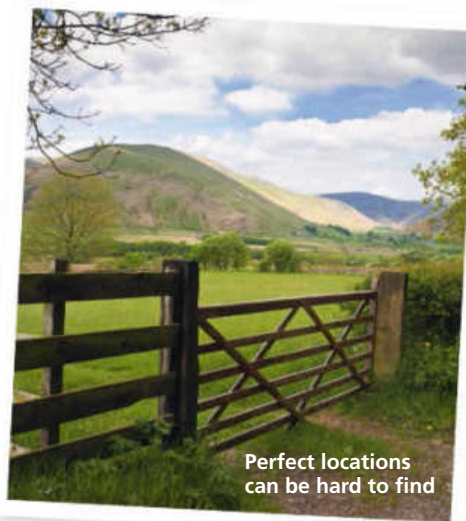
*** Compose a wish list.** Do you want to live in a rural idyll or a community? How far would you move from family and friends? How big a plot do you want? Is this your forever home; if so, how do you plan to futureproof it? 'A common mistake is to look over too large an area,' says Rebecca Cousins of Potton's Self Build Academy (selfbuildacademy.co.uk). 'If your search isn't focused, you'll be overwhelmed by the scale of your hunt.'

*** Know your budget.** 'Talk to a specialist mortgage adviser such as those at BuildStore, to explore the options,' says Raymond Connor. Rebecca Cousins adds: 'Aim to allocate around 35 per cent of your overall sum on the plot. But in locations where plots are rare and property prices high, you might need to spend half.'

*** Subscribe to search companies.** Try Plotsearch (plotsearch.co.uk); plotbrowser.com and plotfinder.net.

*** Register with companies that specialise in auctioning land.** Try Countrywide Property Auctions (countrywidepropertyauctions.co.uk). 'Common lots include repossessed land, homes with fire damage and plots with permission soon to expire,' says Rebecca Cousins.

*** Register your interest with the council,** advises Raymond Connor. 'Local authorities are required to monitor demand and provide appropriate custom-build sites.'



*** Ask around.** Once you've chosen an area, visit local shops, pubs and building sites to see if there are any plots for sale. Introduce yourself to estate agents and land auctioneers and knock on doors next to derelict land to find out who owns it. Michael Holmes, spokesperson for the London Homebuilding & Renovating Show says, 'Use maps and Google Earth to search for hidden land, such as large gardens or gaps between and behind houses. It's usually easier to get approval for development between or next to existing houses.'

*** Put out a message on social media.** Advertise in the local press, local shops, post office, pub and parish hall. Ask 'mobile companies', such as taxi drivers and gardeners, to carry an advert for you. Offer your architect or planning consultant a finder's fee if they can source a plot for you.

*** Visit the local planning office to see the latest applications.** Planning may have been applied for, but that doesn't mean the site will be built on. You might be able to buy the land from the applicant.

*** Consider buying a dilapidated property to demolish.** 'As residential use has already been established for the site, it should be easier to get planning permission,' says Rebecca Cousins.

*** Only buy land with planning permission,** outline or detailed consent, or at least some confirmation that permission can be gained. 'Be wary of anything touted as self-build land without consent in place,' says Rebecca Cousins. 'Avoid agricultural land with "planning potential" – this rarely has a viable development prospect.'

● See over page for plots for sale

TWITTER TALK

Jasmine Birtles, founder of moneymagpie.com on how to haggle on the high street

@HB: Isn't haggling in high street shops against the law?

@Moneymagpie: No, there's nothing to stop you if the shop is open to it

@HB: Who should I ask to speak to in the shop?

@Moneymagpie: Whoever is in charge, although where salespeople are on commission you can deal with them

@HB: How can I prepare myself before I go to bargain?

@Moneymagpie: Research online first. Look around for prices of what you want to buy. Print off the best-priced one and take it with you

@HB: Are some shops more likely to give a discount?

@Moneymagpie: Yes, where salespeople are on commission they can take 10% off instantly. Some #blogs have tips on which shops will do it

@HB: Does offering to pay in cash make a difference?

@Moneymagpie: Yes, it can but that's more likely in small shops

@HB: If the item is already reduced, do I still have a chance of #discount?

@Moneymagpie: You do, particularly if you're offering to buy two or more of the item

@HB: Is there a good – or a bad – time to haggle?

@Moneymagpie: Best to try when things are quiet, say a Tuesday or Wednesday morning

@HB: What should I look for on an item to help me haggle?

@Moneymagpie: If it's been on display or there's a mark, you should be able to get something off. Or ask for free delivery, etc

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

LAND for sale

OXBOROUGH BROAD, NORFOLK

£400,000



This site has planning permission to convert an agricultural building into a modern single-storey home within a wildlife and conservation area, surrounded by lakes, wetlands and woodland. The peaceful location is easily reached from the A134 Stoke Ferry bypass.

Brown & Co,
01603 950069

SEASYDE, FIRTH OF TAY, PERTHSHIRE

£295,000



Overlooking the stunning Firth of Tay, there are two plots of approximately four acres each, both with detailed planning permission for a two-storey detached house. Buyers will have the option to adjust the size, layout and design of the houses.

Strutt & Parker,
0131 226 2500

DEVORAN, NEAR TRURO, CORNWALL

£345,000



Around four miles from Truro train station, this two-bed semi-detached cottage in a creekside village comes with a building plot including planning permission for a family home.

The cottage also has planning permission to extend the kitchen.

Miller Countrywide,
01872 888319

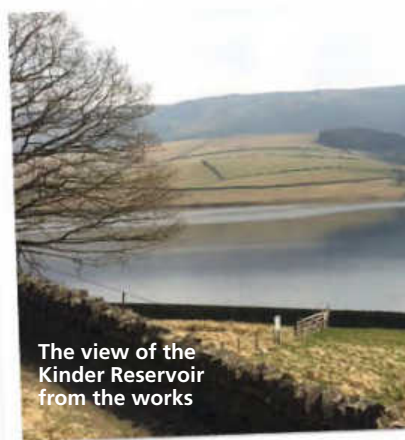
TEMPLE SOWERBY, PENRITH, CUMBRIA

£125,000



With stunning views over the North Pennines, this plot has outline planning permission for a detached house, as well as space for an extensive garden, small paddock or even an additional property. A stone and slate field house is included in the sale.

Penrith Farmers & Kidds, 01768 862135



The view of the Kinder Reservoir from the works



PROPERTY gossip

A former waterworks may not sound like a dream home, but just look at the view! Kinder Water Treatment Works was built in 1912 to filter the water from the Kinder Reservoir, and overlooks this tranquil corner of Derbyshire. With its rows of arched windows and skylights, The Filter House, as it's known, is now empty and ripe for residential redevelopment. 'The works haven't been used since the late 1990s,' says Rebecca Stockdale, senior property surveyor at owners United Utilities. 'It's a wonderful building that could make the perfect blank canvas for somebody's Grand Design.'

It's on the market with Land4homes of Wilmslow (land4homes.co.uk). Expressions of interest are requested first, and the deadline for submission is noon on Wednesday 9 September, 2015.



PROPERTY FINANCE
SPECIALIST

Melanie Bien

Money expert and
founder of Bien Media

How do I borrow to buy land?

I'm hoping to build my own house and need to buy a plot of land. Can I get a mortgage for that? Are there any special considerations when buying land, and how do I get the finance for the build?

Self-building can be cheaper than buying a property, but you will require a specialist lender. The best way of finding one is to use an independent mortgage broker.

With a self-build mortgage, money is released in instalments as the build progresses. The lender might release money to buy the plot, more to cover the foundations, and then in stages to completion. These payments are usually made in arrears – once the work on each stage has been completed and a valuer has visited the site. This means you'll need savings to pay for each stage and for the deposit on the land.

Plots are relatively scarce in the UK so it can be hard to find one and may take time – see our Finding The Plot feature on the previous page. The cost differential between land with and without planning can be huge but you should never buy land without planning permission as there's no guarantee you'll get it. **HB**

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MOODBOARD MASTERCLASS

LET EXOTIC COLOURS AND TEXTURES FROM FAR-FLUNG LOCATIONS BE THE INSPIRATION FOR YOUR SCHEME

Fabrics and wallpaper (clockwise from top): Mirella Acacia wide-width printed sheer fabric, £125 a metre, Black Edition by Romo. Levantine gold rug, £737 a sq metre, Bazaar Velvet. **Silver cushion**, £39, Graham and Green. Kallianthi Demeter **Stripe wallpaper** with yellow watercolour effect, £54 for 10 metres, Harlequin. Medina in Ochre **honeycomb design linen fabric**, £90 a metre, Rapture and Wright. Apollo **Gold and white fabric**, £89 a metre, Jane Churchill. **Garland silk cushion** in Tumeric/Storm, £59; **Spiral Hearts linen cushion** in Ivory/Tumeric, £45; both Clarissa Hulse. **Accessories:** Brass bowl, find similar at Nkuku. Hammered brass tray, £28, Holly's House. Artisan wood side plate, £11.95, Luma. Gold ceramic sugar bowl, £12, Rockett St George.

Get the look Recreate this month's style feature, 'Indian Summer', in your living room. Team natural materials, such as wood, with burnished copper and include contrasting fabric textures like silk and linen. Yellow holds the scheme together – use rich ochre and golden tones for a sophisticated effect

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Brooklyn Tin Tiles **wallpaper**, £219 for 10 metres, Rockett St George. **Curtains** made up in Mirella Acacia wide-width printed sheer, £125 a metre, Black Edition by Romo. Chelsea fixed back **sofa**, upholstered in Zimmer and Rohde Saga, £4,811, Delcor. Avalon **armchair** in Grey Marl Highland Tweed, £640, sofa.com. Matisse **chest of drawers**, £995, Graham and Green. Levantine gold **rug**, £737 a sq metre, Bazaar Velvet. Midas Gold Geometric **side table**, £95, Rockett St George. Seaworthy Knot **mirror**, £148, Anthropologie. **On chest of drawers (l-r)**: Earth bowl, £13.95, Luma. Large Rustic pitcher, £75, Graham and Green. Faux blossom branch, find similar at Holly's House. Matt Grey and Brass table lamp, £346, Holly's House. **On coffee table**: Helianthus goblet, £6, Anthropologie. Gold Swallow tea cup and saucer, £22, Rockett St George. **Cushions on sofa (l-r)**: Spiral silk in Storm/Lemon, £59, Clarissa Hulse. Blockstripe Grey, £49, Luma. Garland silk in Tumeric/Storm, £59, Clarissa Hulse. Waves, £49, Luma. Silver cotton, £39, Graham and Green. **On armchair**: Rue silk cushion in Storm/Quince, £59, Clarissa Hulse. Mustard washed linen throw, £175, Holly's House

Living room A stunning tile-effect wallpaper provides a striking contrast to the golden yellow sofa. Add a subtle abstract rug and dreamy sheer curtains to soften the mix of bold patterns and shapes



Burst of retro

Available in both gold and silver, this stylish mirror is an eye-catching piece.

Sunni sun-shaped mirror, £79, Very

Pattern repeat

Add interest to a plain sofa with this patterned **Geo cushion, £32, Oliver Bonas**



Past times

A light made from wood gives a historical look. **Large round wooden pendant, £359, Barker & Stonehouse**



Light bulb moment

This simple brass lamp is inspired by 1930s design.

Reade table lamp, £150, The Scandinavian Shop



In the round

Reclaimed wood brings texture and interest to any scheme. **Teak and Iron coffee table, £295, Puji**



Flower power

Enjoy beautiful blooms all year round by buying faux. **Kew magnolia bouquet with vase, £70, Neptune**



Take a seat

A wood and steel stool will add an industrial element.

Chandler bar stool, £125, George Home



Embossed effect

Opt for texture with a wallpaper that has a raised pattern. **Queens Key, £85 a roll, Cole & Son**



Watch the birdie

For a pop of colour and a touch of fun, introduce this quirky ornament to your mantelpiece. **Yellow parrot statue, £15, BHS**



Sunny delight

Create a focal point with the **Snowdrop three seat sofa in Lemon brushed linen cotton, £1,340, sofa.com**



Curve appeal

Weathered oak and a beautiful shape make this a stand-out piece.

Otterley chest of drawers, £695, Loaf



Bold pattern

This graphic rug features two on-trend colours. **Trill cotton flat weave rug, £150, Habitat**



Get the look Pick out a vibrant colour from your chosen tropical print and use it as the main colour in the room. Or reverse the idea and use the print as a primary feature and accent with a key colour



Wallpaper used as background: Raya, Amazônia collection, £42 a roll, Harlequin. **Clockwise, from left:** Old Havana plate, £10, Anthropologie. Bubble vase, £6.50, Oliver Bonas. **Vogue wallpaper** in Citrus, £43 a metre, Clarke & Clarke at Wallpaper Direct. Canton Intelligent **matt emulsion**, £43.50 for 2.5L, Little Greene. Nalina multi-coloured jungle leaf **fabric**, £46 a metre, Harlequin. American Black Walnut **flooring**, £195 a sq metre, Element 7. **Shimmer fabric**, £57 a metre, Matthew Williamson at Osborne & Little. Greenwhite **fern wallpaper** by Galbraith and Paul, £124 a roll, Tissus d'Helene. Two-tone green **Feather Fan wallpaper**, £72 for 10 metres, Cole & Son. Just Like It white **fern wallpaper**, £34.95 a roll, Galerie Wallcoverings. Blue/green **Manila wallpaper**, £55 a roll, Voyage of Discovery collection, Sanderson. Voyage Country collection **May fabric**, £50.50 a metre, Voyage. **Straw cushion cover**, £14.99, H&M. The Makery Spearmint Neon **ribbon**, £4.95, Wild & Wolf at Bloomsbury Store. **Bird of Paradise fabric**, Samana collection, £57 a metre, Matthew Williamson at Osborne & Little.

Double **duvet cover**, £95;
Oxford **pillowcases**, £22
each; **embroidered cushion**;
Paradise Bird cushion, both
£45 each; all from the Paradise
Lagoon Collection, Bedeck.
Raya **wallpaper**, £42 a roll;
Amazilia Lagoon **rug**, from
£899; both Harlequin



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Bedroom Create a tropical look by teaming floral prints with textured plains. Contrast is key, so use a watercolour-effect rug in turquoise blues and sea greens on floorboards and finish the scheme with bird and butterfly motif cushions

REAL
BEAUTY
IDEAL
LUXURY



Ideal Standard, the leading provider of innovative and design-driven bathroom solutions has unveiled its latest breakthrough in bathroom design.

Introducing the stunning Dea bathroom suite. This new collection combines beautiful design and functional excellence. Dea embodies Ideal Standard's commitment to creating a beautiful use of space.

Dea has won multiple awards for Product Innovation and Best Bathroom Product.

Find your nearest exclusive Interiors dealer at Ideal-Standard.co.uk or call our customer services team on 01482 346461



A
BEAUTIFUL
USE
OF
SPACE



All aflutter

Butterflies are a big hit in interiors this season, so this pretty print with a lush colour palette is a spot-on buy. **Rousseau Butterfly print, £75, Rockett St George**

Hang up

Cast a soft glow with this simple yet stylish light shade, which works on both a ceiling light and table lamp. **Zena natural rattan shade, £27, Colours at B&Q**



Mix & match

Rich, dark woods lend an exotic feel and these unique drawers will look stunning against a deep turquoise wall.

Mismatched wood drawers, £519.95, Made With Love Designs



Flight of fancy

Brighten up your bed with this embroidered cushion. **Hummingbird cushion, 48, Laura Ashley**



Tactile top

Crafted by hand from a single piece of oak wrapped around itself, this wooden shade is simply stunning. **Tom Raffled Helix oak floor lamp, £520, John Lewis**



Modern edge

The clean lines of this oak bed and its powder-coated metal legs will look great in a contemporary bedroom. **Brunel double bed with oak headboard by Rob Scarlett, £495, Heal's**



Glass act

Use vases to provide extra colour, as well as for displaying exotic blooms. This pair also comes in blue and purple. **Set of two decorative recycled glass bottles, £27, Very**



Time for tea

Enjoy your morning brew in bed with this charming fine bone china tea cup and saucer, which is handmade in Staffordshire. **Lou Rota Hummingbird cup and saucer, £32, Amara**



Sweet dreams

Featuring vibrant flowers and birds, this eye-catching set will be the star of the room. **Essence Fogel king size duvet set, £120, Amara**

Cosy toes

Sink your feet into this pure wool rug every morning. The tropical coloured stripes have a hand-painted look. **Estella Summer rug in Green, £299 for 140cm x 200cm, Woven**



In a spin

You could use this handsome industrial-style stool, made from reclaimed pine and steel, as a side table too. **Saxon stool, £129, Swoon Editions**

DRESS YOUR WINDOWS IN STYLE

New! Transform your home
with blinds and curtains from
the House Beautiful range

Bedroom

Blinds in Celeste Biscotti, from £172; curtains with a pinch pleat in Truffle White, from £173 a pair; all Hillarys. Luna bed, £845; Light stripe Lazy Linen pillowcases, £20 for two; all Loaf. Pale green linen pillowcases, find similar at Linenme. Super soft fringe blanket, £75, French Connection. Grey ruched cotton large throw, £158, Also Home. Chunky knit rug, £400, Cox & Cox. Matisse chest of drawers, £995, Graham and Green. Glass vase

with brass belt, £22, Rockett St George. White decorative pitcher, £69, Graham and Green. Stefan grey ceramic bottle vase, £25, Habitat. Bubble Structure vase, £18, Bloomingville at Amara. Small Sky Blue concertina vase, £23, Graham and Green. Lana wall art, £75, Lombok. Pouffe, find similar at Moroccan Bazaar. Denim throw (on pouffe), £77, Moelle at Amara. Curtain pole, find similar at John Lewis



STYLING KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES. PHOTOGRAPHY RACHEL WHITING



Inspired by heritage, travel and culture, this exciting range from House Beautiful and Hillarys, the made-to-measure blinds and curtain experts, features stunning patterns, textures and colours from around the globe. You'll find gorgeous designs in a variety of prints, weaves and embroideries in three colour palettes.

The fabrics all work brilliantly together so you can mix and match for an eclectic feel to add grown-up elegance to your home. Choose dramatic indigo for a look that's on trend now, soft pinks for feminine appeal, or a stunning neutral palette as shown here, that will work well with any scheme and stand the test of time.

With the help of Hillarys made-to-measure service, you can choose matching or contrasting curtains, blinds and cushions to transform your room. A local Hillarys advisor will come to your home to discuss your requirements and take measurements, giving you peace of mind. Prices start at £148. Allow three weeks from placing an order to delivery and fitting by a Hillarys expert.

● Visit hillarys.co.uk/housebeautiful

HILLARYS

Bathroom

Blind in Isra Dove Grey, from £184, Hillarys.

Everywhere **rug**, £75; rattan **chair**, £200; both Cox & Cox.

Hamam towels on hooks, from £15, Loaf. Find similar **metal bowls** at French Connection.

Hand and **Body Wash**, £21.50; **Indigo hamam towel** (in bowl), £28; **White hamam towel** on chair, £46; all Folklore

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

COLOUR confident

Industry experts explain how to use this season's gorgeous, rich shades



GREEN SCENE

This naturally soothing choice helps create an oasis of calm

Castle Gray (above) is a timeless and versatile colour with dark undertones, which can be used to help create depth. Fabulous with greens, it works well in rooms overlooking gardens, and in small spaces it can embrace a lack of light to create an intimate feel.

JOSEPHINE RANCE
FARROW & BALL

Verdigris is rooted in history yet reflects the catwalk trend for confident, bold earthiness. Named after bronze weathered by seawater, it naturally teams with bronze accessories for a decadent, warm look – or with white for a crisp freshness.

NICK RONALD
GRAND ILLUSIONS



Castle Gray Estate
emulsion, £38 for 2.5L,
Farrow & Ball



Verdigris Vintage Milk
paint, £18.95 for 1L,
Grand Illusions



PINK PERFECTION

Add grown-up blush tones for a feeling of understated glamour

Inspired by exotic hardwoods, Nicaragua (above) is strong without being overpowering and neither overtly masculine nor feminine. With rich undertones it works well on walls or as a trim colour. Try it with a grey such as our Wash Stop or Fine Grey.

EDWARD BULMER
POTS OF PAINT

Originating in the 1960s, Carmine is on-trend with its gentle retro charm bringing warmth and a glow to autumn homes. It would work well in bedrooms, hallways and living rooms, and be a funky update on skirtings and mouldings.

DAVID MOTTERSHEAD
LITTLE GREENE



Nicaragua Natural emulsion,
£40 for 2.5L, Edward Bulmer
Pots of Paint



Carmine Absolute
matt emulsion, £35 for
2.5L, Little Greene

EARTH CHIC

An emphasis on colours inspired by the earth forms the foundation of 2015's paint trends.

Natural shades that call to mind moody skies, stone, peat and berries are key to the autumn/winter season.

Add luxury with soft metallics such as copper and gently burnished zinc.



TRUE BLUE

Use seductive blues for stylish sophistication

The trend for bolder paints continues and Indigo (above), a deep blue with a lovely softness, lends itself to the current fashion for painting hallways in rich colours. Contrast it with pale pink for a feminine look. It would work best in a south-facing room, as it will absorb the light.

ALYCE TAYLOR SANDERSON

A lively teal, Mrs Booth imbues a room with warmth and vitality. In keeping with the trend for vibrant colours in the home, it's welcoming in hallways and living rooms, relaxing in bedrooms and adds an invigorating splash to kitchens and bathrooms.

**ROB WHITAKER
FIRED EARTH**



Indigo Blue Active
emulsion, £43 for
2.5L, Sanderson



Mrs Booth, £35.50 for
2.5L matt emulsion,
Fired Earth



DARK AND MOODY

Chocolate with delicious bitter undertones makes a welcome return

Vintage Smoke (above) is a chocolate with a grey edge and in line with the season's trends is classic and understated yet sure of itself. It will highlight artwork or create an atmospheric space and is beautiful with wood, blues, mustard and copper and gold.

**REBECCA WILLIAMSON
DULUX**

Strong colours are here to stay and Chocolate Pudding is a deep, rich red with a touch of brown. I love when everything is painted in this colour - from skirtings to walls to cornices. For the ultimate in luxury, use it in a gloss finish to give a high-end lacquered feel.

**VANESSA GALLOWAY
KONIG COLOURS**



Vintage Smoke
matt emulsion,
2.5L, £24.49, Dulux



Chocolate Pudding, Low
Sheen emulsion, £42 for
2.5L, Konig Colours

6 STEPS TO... UPDATE YOUR BATHROOM

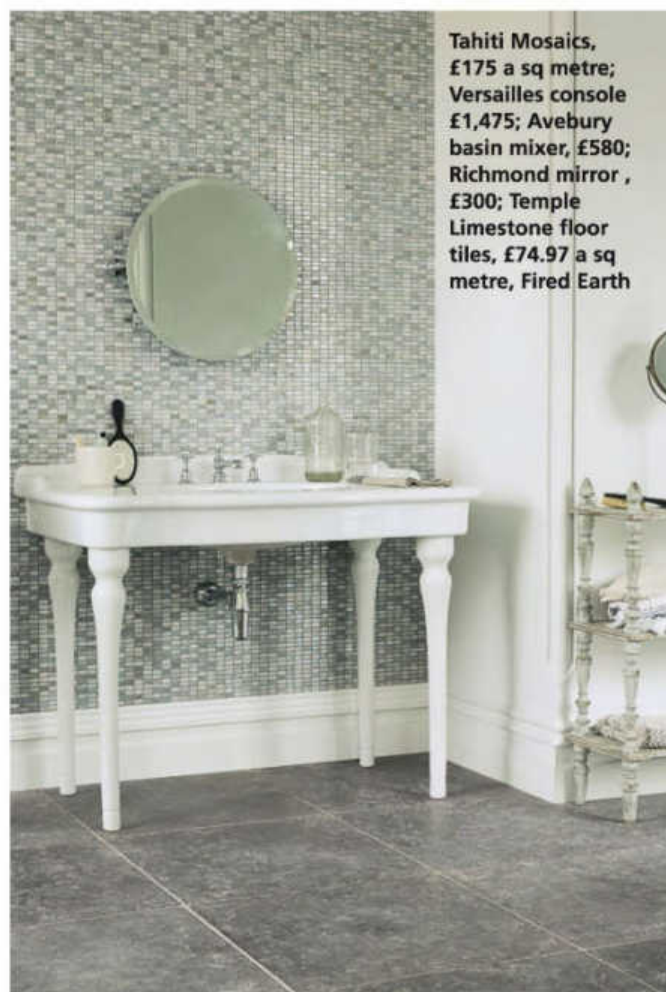
Expert advice from interior designer and TV presenter Julia Kendall

1 ADD STORAGE

All too easily this room can become cluttered if it lacks adequate storage for essentials such as toiletries, towels, loo rolls and cleaning products. Wall cabinets don't need to be very deep to hold most lotions and potions, but if space is really tight, it may be possible to sink a cabinet into a stud-wall to make use of the void. In the same way, you could create a niche within a shower enclosure to provide a place to hold shampoo and soap, and it's a neater solution than a protruding wire rack. If there is sufficient floorspace, full-length, freestanding cabinets add character and can introduce an element of colour. If you choose a cabinet with glass doors, consider using a fabric curtain behind the glass to conceal messy contents and bring pattern into the room.

2 LIGHTING CHANGES

It's important to have practical lighting so you can see what you're doing properly without being in shadow, and also softer lighting that's more relaxing. Ideally you should have both natural and artificial light. If there is a window, shutters or Venetian blinds are stylish options that provide privacy and allow in light. There are also many sheer fabric blinds to choose from – for instance Luxaflex Silhouette – that are practical and pretty. Insetting a large, cut-to-size mirror within the wall tiling will also help to bounce natural light around



the room and make it feel much bigger. Ceiling lights should ideally be recessed to maximise the feeling of space and height and produce bright background lighting. Wall lights on either side of a mirror – wired on a separate circuit and controlled independently of the ceiling lights – are flattering and softer, creating a more relaxing mood.

3 PAINT UPDATE Using white or a pale, neutral colour allows for a quick change in your look and colour scheme without the need to completely refurbish. On the other hand, dark and bright colours on the walls offer a more interesting backdrop than a neutral shade. And, as bathroom isn't a room where people spend a lot of

time, it lends itself to a more adventurous use of colour. Fuchsia, tangerine and copper are all energising colours that work well. For an elegant but equally bold look, try navy paint against white tiles or charcoal with cream.

4 CREATE DRAMA

New flooring and tiles are the most dramatic options for updating a scheme without completely overhauling the furniture and fittings. Wood-effect vinyl flooring or engineered timber boards will give a soft, natural look in a practical finish. Consider how the pattern and texture of new wall and floor tiles can help draw attention to areas of interest and increase the feeling of space and light. A contrasting grout colour can look very smart, particularly with 'metro' tiles, and is often a more practical choice than white grout in busy, family bathrooms.

5 VINTAGE TOUCHES

For a more spa-like, luxurious look, choose individual furnishings that have character. Don't be restricted to using specifically bathroom-style pieces. An upholstered chair, vintage cabinet or antique gilt-framed mirror can add warmth and a touch of luxury to a room full of hard, sleek surfaces. To protect furnishings, ensure you have good ventilation to remove steam and excess humidity.

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE ★ FIND MORE BATHROOM IDEAS AT housebeautiful.co.uk

6 ACCESSORISE AND PERSONALISE

This is a great space to personalise and have fun with. For instance, you could paper the walls with vintage book pages, comics, maps or old newspapers sealed with lacquer, or have a favourite photograph transferred to an oversized canvas. Accessorise with items that have meaning, or just bring a smile to your face, such as holiday mementos or coloured glass tealights or jugs.



Bright colour and pattern add interest and warmth. Pradena tiles, £204 a sq metre, Bert and May

HAPPY MEMORIES

Stylish ways to keep your pictures safely stored so you can treasure them for years to come



2

1

9

14

13

11

12

10



Photographic prints throughout, £10.99 for 27 10cm x 10cm prints of Instagram or photo files, Sticky9 1 Large linen cover photo album, £25; black photo corners, £4.75 for 252; both Paperchase 2 Kate Spade rotating stamp set, £20, Quill 3 Dani small veneer wooden tray, £5, Habitat 4 Winsor & Newton black

Indian ink, £4.50; brass foldback clip, £6.50 for 10; Calligraphy pen holder, £3, with Nikko G nib, £3; all Quill 5 Par Avion Aeroplane mini Kraft envelopes, £1.95 for 10, Lemon Cat Shop at Etsy 6 Midori brass number clips, £13.50 for 12, The Conran Shop 7 Just Your Type stickers set, £9.95 for 600+ characters,

Rockett St George 8 Paperclips, £3.49 for 100, Staples 9 Design letters egg cup (used as glue pot), £22.50 for two, Amara Brush, £4.25 for set of five, Paperchase 10 Black and white baker's twine, £5.95, Papermash 11 Paper scissors, £22.95, Nook 12 Thick grey lines ruler by Hay, £5, Really Well Made



13 Kaweco 'sketch up' brass pencil, £30, Nook **14** Workman's pen in blue, £25, Anthropologie; Midori brass pencil, £14.95, Nook **15** Chevron ribbon on spool, £5.85 for 3m, John Lewis. **Silver photo corners**, £4.75 for 252, Paperchase **16** U-Shot deluxe leather camera stick, £47.99, Xseries **17** Linen photo

album, £19.95, Pretty Dandy **18** WD My Passport Ultra metal edition 1TB portable hard drive, £69.95, John Lewis **19** Polaroid Zip instant mobile printer in black, £109.99, Amazon **20** Lomo' Instant white camera, £89, Lomography **21** La Vita e Bella photo album, £6.29, Fabriano Boutique **22** Striped phone

case, £12.50, Dessi Designs at Etsy **23** Echo 8GB flash drive in navy, £35, The Conran Shop **24** Black and white washi tape, £2.50 a roll, Papermash **25** Ghent in Bone fabric, £40 a metre, Villa Nova

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE WHERE TO BUY PAGE

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kitchen or bathroom
is out of reach?



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BETTER THAN BESPOKE

Upcycling experts Jenny Lloyd and Jonathan Parkin transform a tubular frame chair with vintage printed grain sacking

● To find instructions for this 1970s chrome chair update, visit housebeautiful.co.uk and search 'chrome chair makeover'

Industrial table, £450, Home Barn. Taj Mahal canvas from the V&A collection, from £95, Surface View. White and grey vase (with flowers), £30, French Connection. Trina black and white patterned vase, £25, Habitat. Tenderling pot, £3, Anthropologie. Plant pot, stylist's own

TAKE TO THE FLOOR

Find carpet, laminate, wood and vinyl to suit your scheme



RICH TEXTURES

1 A deep-pile Saxony carpet gives an opulent look at an affordable price. **Ultimate 14 Woolsilk Texture**, 70% New Zealand wool, 30% Italian silk, £19.99 a sq m, Ryalux **2** Lighten up a dark room with the **Eclipse Velvet** in Mascarpone, 80% wool, 20% nylon, £78 a sq m, Blenheim Carpets **3** Add texture and interest to a neutral scheme with the **Desert Tones Kalahari** in Nomad Slate, 100% wool, £39.99 a sq m, Ryalux **4** Splash out on a blend of sustainable fibres for the ultimate in luxury. **Gäia Sinclair** in Gordon, 50% New Zealand wool, 50% viscose and plant fibres, £252 a sq m, Flock Living **5** Perk up a study with the **Quirky B Honeycomb** in Duck Egg, 80% wool, 20% nylon, £88.20 a sq m, Alternative Flooring **6** Update stairs with the smart **Biscayne Stripe** in Powder Blue, 100% wool, £73 a sq m, Crucial Trading **7** Treat feet to the **Exquisite Velvet** in Platinum, 80% wool, 20% nylon, £51.99 a sq m, Westex **8** Go natural with a handwoven carpet made from undyed wool. **Barefoot Ashtanga** in Cobra, 100% wool, £63 a sq m, Alternative Flooring **9** Jazz up a plain scheme with the **Alluring Stripe** in Oyster/ Stone, 100% wool, £55 a sq m, Crucial Trading **10** Invest in quality with the **Otto Handwoven Broadloom** in Ivory, 100% undyed wool, £124 a sq m, Jacaranda Carpets



‘Our Padstow designs combine subtle colours and fun patterns with a grown-up feel. As the floor provides impact, your interior can be kept simple.’

NATALIE LITTLEHALES, MARKETING MANAGER, BRINTONS

Padstow Surf
Spot, 80% wool,
20% nylon, £75
a sq m, Brintons

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SUBTLE CONTRASTS

1 Striped in the style of French ticking is the **Dominica Flatweave Wilton** in Dark Blue and Light Blue, 100% wool, £70.20 a sq m, Blenheim Carpets **2** The Axminster weaving process produces clearly defined patterns, like this **Padstow Surf Houndstooth**, 80% wool, 20% nylon, £75 a sq m, Brintons **3** Make your room look bigger with the **South Pacific Rib** in Pitcairn, 100% wool, £51 a sq m, Kersaint Cobb **4** Get the look of coir or sisal, but with a softer feel with the **Sisal Weave** in Gainsboro, 100% wool, £48 a sq m, Victoria Carpets **5** Twist piles won't show footmarks. **Bell Twist Wilton** in China Blue, 80% wool, 20% nylon, £40 a sq m, Brintons **6** Choose a warm blue for a summery scheme. **New Zealand Wool Rich Plain Twist Pile** in Riviera Blue, 80% wool, 10% polypropylene, 10% polyester, £28 a sq m, John Lewis **7** Enjoy the subtle effect of the **Designer Stripe** in Grey Plover, 80% wool, 20% nylon, £44.99 a sq m, Westex **8** Fine stripes complement a colour scheme rather than dominate it. **Bulmer Loop Pile** in Endless Summer, 100% wool, £128 a sq m, Tim Page Carpets **9** Go soft underfoot with the **William Classic Velvet** in Indian Summer, 80% wool, 20% nylon, £37.99 a sq m, Ryalux **10** Create a coastal look with the **Cambridge Stripe** in Girton, 100% wool, £49.99 a sq m, Westex

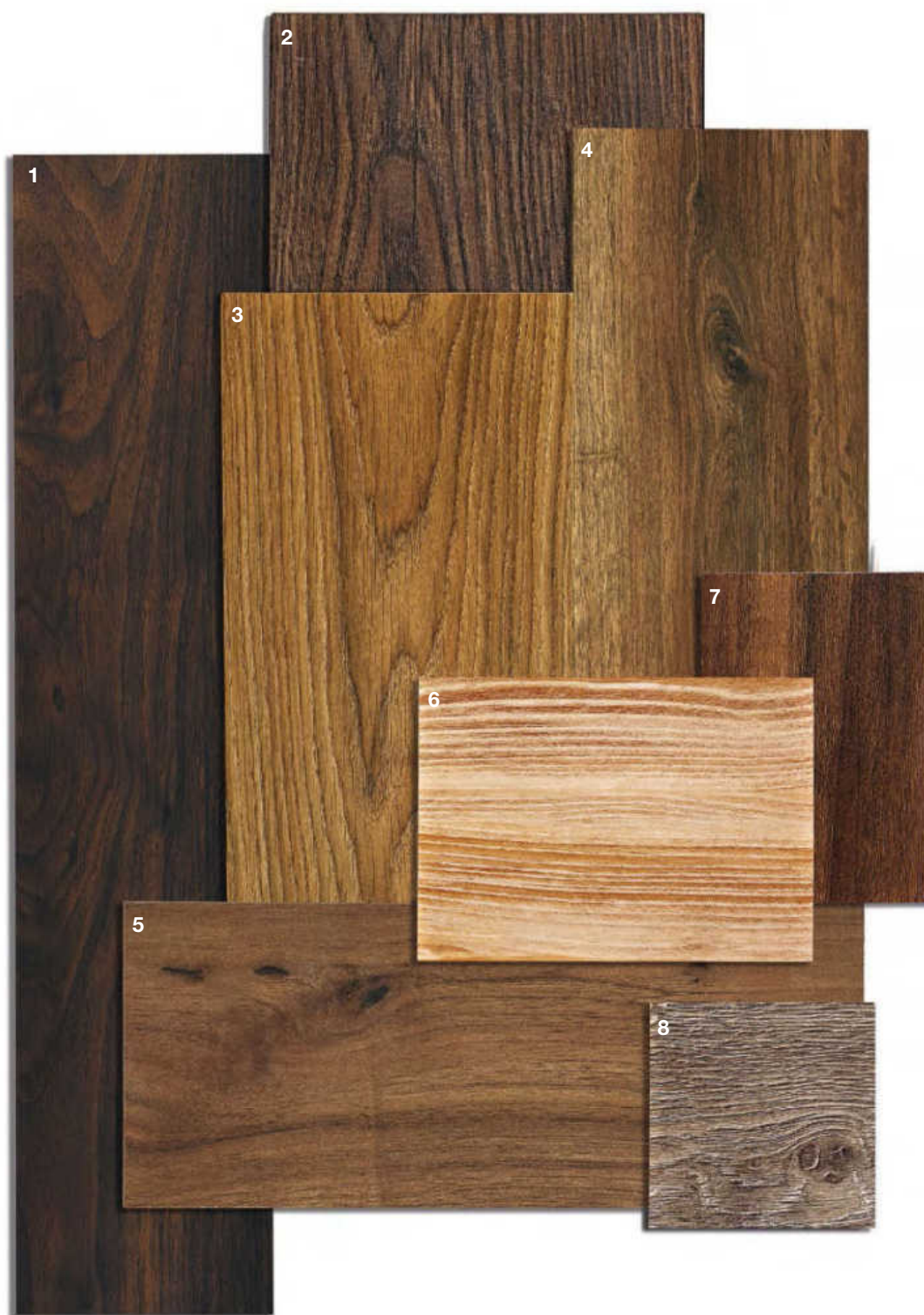


‘Twist carpet in an 80% wool, 20% nylon mix is ideal for all rooms. The pile offers a textural surface that is luxurious and soft underfoot, as well as hardwearing.’

OLIVIA HARVEY, JOHN LEWIS FLOORCOVERINGS BUYER

Bell twist in Honeysuckle,
80% wool, 20% nylon,
£40 a sq m, Brintons

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NATURAL LOOK

1 A textured surface gives vinyl the feel and look of natural timber. **Signature vinyl** in Dark Walnut, £70 a sq m, Amtico **2** Click-fit flooring is easy to lay. **Schreiber laminate** in Antique Chestnut, £25.95 for a 1.73sq m pack, Homebase **3** Grit carried on outdoor shoes may mark laminate, so choose one with a scratch-resistant surface, like **Elite laminate** in White Oak Medium, £19.99 a sq m, Quick-Step **4** Most floating laminate is compatible with underfloor heating, but check with your supplier. **Series Woods 12mm laminate** in Atlas Oak Coffee, £14 a sq m, UK Flooring Direct **5** Dark wood tones are a great background for rugs. **Colours Scherzo laminate** in Dark Walnut effect, £24.20 for a 1.21sq m pack, B&Q **6** Opt for the pale tones of unfinished wood to give a contemporary look. **Newport loose lay vinyl**, £42.99 a sq m, Karndean **7** Make sure vinyl flooring is laid on a level surface to help it last. **Essencia vinyl** in Rosewood, £19.95 a sq m, Victoria Luxury Flooring **8** The embossed grain and weathered wood tone of this laminate give it a rustic look. **Renaissance Harbour Oak laminate**, £18.99 a sq m, Carpetright

‘Luxury vinyl tiles are a practical solution for busy areas. They are warm underfoot and have a protective wear layer that can withstand busy family life.’

NICKYTA VALAMBHIA, UK RESIDENTIAL MARKETING
EXECUTIVE AT AMTICO



Wild Walnut
Stripwood with
Origami motif, from
£70 a sq m, Amtico

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REAL LUXURY

1 Check timber is certified by the FSC, like this **Colours Rondo solid oak**, £45.50 for a 1.3m pack, B&Q **2** A striking grain gives parquet a modern edge. **Zermat Pattern parquet** in engineered aged and lacquered American Walnut, £302.04 a sq m, Urbane Living **3** For busy areas, choose a dark, real wood as marks will be less obvious. **Nuances polished oak** with matt satin finish, from £54.50 a sq m, Broadleaf **4** Go for character with the lively grain pattern in **Galleria Legacy engineered oak** in Coffee Hand Scraped lacquer, £38 a sq m, UK Flooring Direct **5** Tinted oil emphasises the grain. **Oak Ebony pre-oiled engineered**, £43.33 a sq m, The Natural Wood Floor Co **6** A brushed finish makes the grain more prominent. **Cozy Symphony solid oak** in Raw Sugar, £119 a sq m, Junckers **7** Honey-coloured oak mellows beautifully with age. **Supreme Real collection Oak Rogalin engineered**, £151.20 a sq m, Kährs **8** For durability, invest in this **Burmese Teak engineered**, pre-oiled, £336.13 a sq m, Element 7 **9** Opt for ready oiled, so you don't have to treat it yourself. Try **Woodland engineered oak** in Roasted Acorn, £69.95 a sq m, Fired Earth

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

‘Wood provides a hardwearing surface for a busy hallway and the warm tone creates a welcoming aesthetic. Opt for a more rustic timber if you want to disguise footprints and paw marks.’

HARVEY BOOTH, COUNTRY MANAGER, KÄHRS

SUMMER SALE



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HB PROJECT LIVING ROOM

PLANNING * PRODUCTS * TRENDS * ESSENTIALS

PHOTOGRAPH DAVID BRITTAIN. STYLING HANNAH DEACON

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PLAN TO PERFECTION

Key to the success of your space is the sofa, flooring and lighting

Whatever the size and style of your living room, the biggest investments you'll make for it are most likely to be the sofa, flooring and lighting. Follow our expert advice to help you make the right choices.

Select your sofa

What's inside your sofa is just as important as what's used on the outside. Feather-filled cushions are high on comfort but they will need regular plumping. For something less time-consuming, go for pure foam or fibre fillings. Bear in mind that these can flatten out and lose their shape over time.

Kate Hassard from sofa.com recommends choosing a combination of feather and foam as 'feathers give the squish while the foam provides structure'. An ideal combination is back cushions filled with feathers and seat cushions filled with foam or fibre.

● **Frame** Spend as much as you can on quality to see you through many years to come: a strong, European beech wood frame is a good start. Some manufacturers are so confident about their frames that they offer a lifetime guarantee. Serpentine seat springing forms the base and at the top end traditional coil springs that look like those inside a mattress give the firmest support. All of this is covered in layers of different densities for comfort. These could be made of foam or wool, felt or cotton.

● **Size** The average sofa has a seat depth of at least 60cm,

which gives plenty of room to manoeuvre if you have long legs, and allows you to tuck them under if you're shorter. But they do vary, so try out different styles to ensure you get enough back support. Check the total width, excluding armrests, if you like to stretch out.

When it comes to seat height most designs are between 45cm and 50cm high. There's no right or wrong height so try before you buy to make sure it suits the whole family. Small rooms benefit from low-backed sofas with narrow arms, while a larger space can take high backs, modular furniture and multiple sofas and armchairs.

● **Fabrics** Whether you go for a bold colour, pattern or a neutral, your choice of upholstery fabric will change the look of a sofa enormously and has a huge impact on the room. Choose carefully to ensure it fits with existing furniture and furnishings. Picking a dark colour will make the sofa seem very solid. Natural materials may fade in strong sunlight so go for a synthetic fabric if the sofa is near a window. Select one that's easy to spot clean. Loose covers can be removed for cleaning and some are even washable.

A key trend is velvet, which is soft to the touch, rich in colour and can be surprisingly hardwearing. A velvet with synthetic fibres will be most durable. Checks, tweeds and plaids are also trends to look out for, while being very durable and adaptable designs.

Coordinate your look and add interest to plain flooring with a feature rug. Meta design in Black (140cm x 200cm), £425, WovenGround



Find the right flooring

- * Hardwearing carpet such as 80 per cent wool/20 per cent synthetic will cope with daily life. If you have children and are worried about having to clean them, you could opt for 100 per cent polypropylene as it's stain-resistant.
- * Plain carpet gives greater flexibility with wall colours and furnishings. Patterned carpets turn the floor into a focal point. Stripes can make a small room seem larger.
- * Always get the room professionally measured and fitted and never skimp on underlay. Take samples home to see the carpet in different lights and ask about hidden costs such as moving furniture, waste removal, door easing and delivery.
- * When it comes to wooden flooring, choose from solid timber, engineered wood or laminate. It's easy to care for with a regular sweep, mop or vacuum. Wide boards work best in bigger spaces, while narrow ones and intricate patterns are better for small rooms.
- * Rugs can really jazz up any floor. Choose colour as the starting point and build the room around it. Size-wise they should fill the space between the furniture – too big and they'll overpower the room; too small and they'll be lost.

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Accessorise a neutral sofa with different coloured cushions and throws as the seasons change. A matching footstool in a contrasting shade adds further interest. Snowdrop right-hand chaise in Cookie House linen cotton, £1,850, sofa.com



Layer your lighting

The living room tends to be used for many different activities, from catching up with friends over coffee to entertaining after dinner, and relaxing with a box set at the weekend. It's also where children unwind and play and can even include a handy home-office corner.

As a result of all this varied activity, different kinds of lighting are required. Luke Thomas, associate designer at John Cullen Lighting, explains that lighting should work around you and your needs rather than the other way round. 'Start by confirming the furniture arrangement and finishes,' he says, 'then design the lighting to suit.'

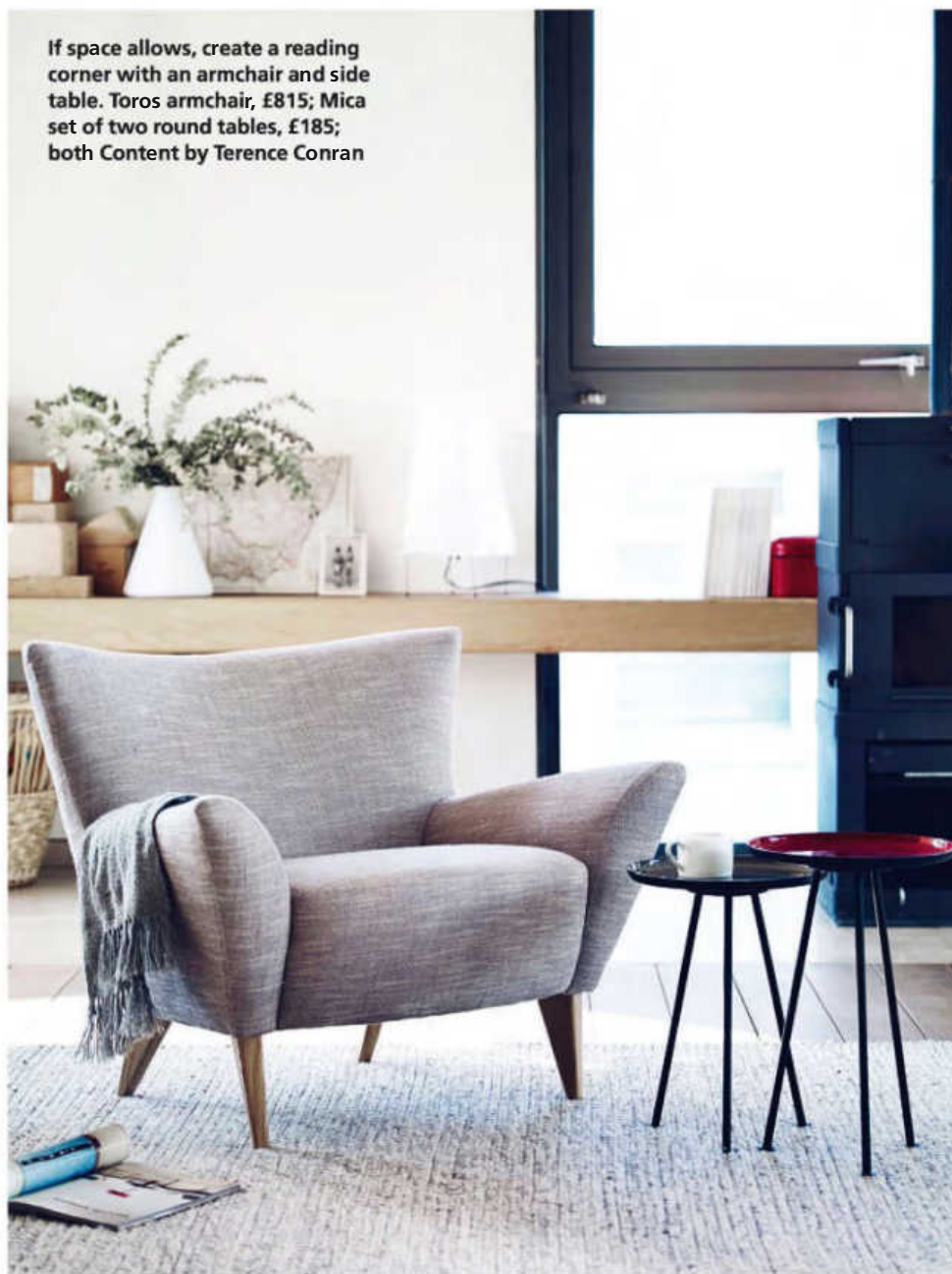
Spotlights can be used to highlight key features of the room such as artwork, a bookcase or beautiful curtains or blinds. Consider uplights and downlights in alcoves or on shelving for a warm glow after dark. Add a few table lamps on coffee and side tables, along with floor lamps for reading. The aim is to create 'zones' with pools of light highlighting each area.

A combination of ambient, accent and task lighting on different circuits enables you to adjust each light separately. Alternatively, try to include dimmer switches. If budget is not a concern, consider lighting control systems that adjust to chosen pre-settings to suit daytime, early evening and late night light levels.

If you're going to the trouble of rewiring, think about installing LED lighting. While it's a big initial investment, its long lamp life and reduced energy consumption make it ideal for the long term.

When you're buying new bulbs, look at the technical specification on the boxes. A warm colour temperature of 2700k or lower, and a CRI (colour rendering index) of 90 or above will show the true colour of your room at night.

If space allows, create a reading corner with an armchair and side table. Toros armchair, £815; Mica set of two round tables, £185; both Content by Terence Conran



Occasional furniture

* Creating a calm, relaxing room depends on having good storage to house books, DVDs and children's toys. Think about the available space and the size and style of the furniture you want to include. Rather than having several smaller items, you could go for a single multi-purpose piece – perhaps including shelving, cupboards and space for a TV – to achieve a sleek, neat look.

* As well as providing storage space, side tables, consoles and coffee tables can add

a pop of colour or contrasting texture. 'Marble-topped tables bring subtle elegance to a room,' says Mike Kingsbury, managing director of Content by Terence Conran, 'while brightly coloured tables can refresh a scheme, especially if you've opted for more neutral upholstery.'

* Look for glass-topped designs to make a small living room feel more spacious, light and airy.

* A nest of tables is a great space-saver as each piece can be moved where needed and then grouped back together after use.

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** ON PAGE 122

WORDS HAYLEY GILBERT

Neat arms and a low back make this perfect for a small room, while tactile velvet covers add a touch of glamour. Izzy two-seat sofa in Deep Turquoise pure cotton matt velvet, £1,290, sofa.com



ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SOFAS AND CHAIRS

Whether you're looking for something soft and squashy or sleek and minimal, you'll find lots of inspiration here...



The Aspen range is available as a two-seater sofa, W182cm, shown here in Launceston Wolf, £1,795, Content by Terence Conran, or a chair, chaise or sofa with chaise

Sofas

* Consider the space available and how you will use it. A wide sofa is great for stretching out on or watching TV, but for chatting to family and friends, a pair of two-seaters may be better.

* Though traditionally made sofas cost more, the price reflects the quality of the frame, springs and upholstery, which may well offer a better return for your investment in terms of comfort and durability.

* Feather-filled cushions are soft but need regular plumping to keep them in shape; foam is firmer, and now feather, foam, foam wraps and fibre are often used in varying combinations for comfort with support.

* One way to check whether a sofa is well made is to grab the back and arm, and make sure you can't twist the frame.

* Buttoning and higher backs with firmer frames, curved arms and turned legs are on-trend style details borrowed from the past. Otherwise the look is low and sleek with fixed seats or single or large double-seat cushions. Whatever style you choose, don't forget to test a new sofa for comfort and size before you buy.

* Think about whether seat covers are removable or fixed for cleaning and whether fabric is washable or dry cleanable.

* If access to your room is limited, go for a low-back sofa and check if the legs can be fixed on once the sofa is in place.



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When shopping for a sofa, sit on it with someone else to check that you don't roll together

1 Button up Slim contemporary arms are a chic contrast to the plump feather cushions of the Salone three-seat sofa in Redbourne Amethyst, W190cm, £2,005, Content by Terence Conran **2 Two tone** Mix it up with an eye-catching seat cushion in Dogtooth Blue on the Fifty Eight small sofa in Festival Ink, W150cm, £1,300, G Plan **3 Long life** With a hardwood frame and coil springs, the Elton large sofa in Stirling Cornflower, W210cm, £890, Arlo & Jacob, is built to last **4 Neat seat** Dunelm's Newport sofa, £599, has a gently retro shape **5 Catwalk style** Featuring hallmark shapely Italian design, the low Don Giovanni three-seater sofa in Fiorentino, W234cm, costs £3,220 from Natuzzi **6 Space saver** Cute, buttoned and made in the UK, the Little Lady sofa in House Brushed Navy, W140cm, costs £1,649 from Sofa Workshop **7 Easy living** Sink into the oversized cushions of the sumptuous Chamberly Grand loose cover sofa in Pier Duck Egg, W224cm, £1,750, John Lewis **8 Cosy option** Felt-effect fabric gives a warm feel to the compact Julianne Loveseat in Pebble, W118cm, £449, Tesco Direct **9 Elegant lines** The Sundance Medium sofa in J Brown Modena 13125FR Silver, W163cm, £1,731, Delcor, features smart piping and also comes as a sofa bed **10 Statement style** A standout colour, plus feature studs, buttoning and a single seat pad make the Nightingale Blue sofa, W214cm, £1,525, The French Bedroom Company, a showstopper

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Sofa beds and space savers

★ It's worth visiting a store before buying one online to check that the sofa bed mechanism folds easily.

★ The quality of the mattress counts more than the thickness. A coil-sprung mattress is a good bet. Lie on it and turn over to check the bed doesn't rock.

★ Sit on the sofa to make sure you can't feel the bed frame through the cushions.

★ Consider delivery – measure the height and width of doorways and note any awkward turns in passageways or on stairs that might be a problem for access.



1 Practical design A simple click mechanism drops the faux-leather Pisa sofa bed in Brown, W190cm, £399, Dwell, to a flat bed

2 Spacious bed The chaise becomes part of the mattress of the Lugnvik sofa bed with chaise longue in Granån Black, W223cm,

£365, Ikea **3 Loft living** On the Vancouver Corner Sofa Bed Group in Romo Linara Argon, W324cm, £3,495, Multiyork, the chaise end

lifts to reveal storage for a duvet **4 Variable seating** The back of the Idris sofa bed in Cream, W181cm, £277 from Modern, adjusts to different heights for comfy lounging **5 Luxurious feel** With plump feather-filled cushions, the scroll-arm Louis Grey velvet three-seater

sofa bed, W232cm, £2,100, Habitat, is built for comfort **6 Material choice** There are 99 fabric options to choose from with the Brompton Occasional medium sofa bed, shown here in Belgian Soft Twill Navy, W194cm, £999, Next

Before ordering, make sure you're happy with the manufacturer's guarantee and the length of time before delivery

Space savers

★ Where you need a little extra seating and space is short, a full-sized sofa may not be a possible option.

★ Check the size of your available space. You can find small sofas, love seats or upholstered benches from 120cm wide. Look for styles less than 90cm deep – they won't look bulky.

★ Having benches without arms will keep the space looking stylish and they will double as seating at the dining table.



1 Focal point Featuring on-trend deep buttoning, the Lara Grey Button Dining bench, W122cm, £577, Artisanti, will slot smoothly into a smaller space **2 Modern design** Available in left- or right-hand versions, the Jersey chaise in Graphite Grey, W149cm, £349,

made.com, has foam filling and oak legs **3 Subtle stripes** The petite Manon two-seater sofa in Blue/White Ticking Stripe, W124cm, £755, Oka, teams with a corner unit and armless chair

Corner sofas

★ Some corner sofas consist of a couple of two- or three-seaters joined by a corner section; others include a chaise so you can stretch out. However, a footstool that can be moved around or double as a table can be a more flexible option.

★ Modular arrangements are the most flexible as they're made up of individual left- and right-hand pieces, armless modules and corner sections that you can rearrange or separate to use as chairs. Having different colours for the sections can look stunning.

★ Corner sofas seating four or five people are great for entertaining family and friends but are bulky. The impression you get in the showroom can be deceptive so before you buy, map its footprint on your living room floor with sheets of newspaper.

★ Think about the 'flow' through your room, checking that an L- or U-shaped sofa won't protrude and block your path, or interfere with the opening of a door.

★ Neutral-coloured sofas on legs, with low backs, will appear to take up less space.



Make sure you can sit comfortably back and have your feet flat on the ground

1 Cool customer Available in eight colours, the Collins & Hayes Catalina corner sofa, in F1401L fabric, W281cm, £2,499, Furniture Village, has inviting feather-filled back cushions **2 Multiple choice** Supply your own fabric for an elegant look on the Hockney corner sofa, shown in Sanderson Romany, W225cm, £5,790, I&JL Brown **3 Super comfy** Deep, generous seats and soft, feather-filled back cushions characterise the Oregon large chaise end sofa in Serlin Marine, W314cm, £2,078, Multiyork **4 Character study** Solid beech legs and contrasting buttons give the Charlie corner sofa in Contrast Grey, W177cm, £399, Modern, a contemporary feel **5 Look lively** Colourful cushions are supplied with the Mandarin Chaise Group, Pillow Back, in Bellrose Black/Orange, W276cm, £999, Sofaworks **6 Neutral shades** The Whitstable Tweed corner chaise, W250cm, £799, Tesco Direct, comes in three colours including this Mocha, and left- and right-hand models **7 Colour block** This Leon medium corner sofa in Deep Turquoise cotton velvet, W252cm, £2,790, sofa.com, also comes with a chaise or single seat **8 Right angle** Choose fixed or removable covers for the Harry corner sofa, shown in House Brushed Cotton Navy, W236cm, £2,499, Sofa Workshop **9 Designer choice** Matthew Hilton's sofa for Habitat, the Chester Mid Tan leather corner sofa, W275cm, £2,800, is a modern classic **10 Full stretch** In a choice of 70 fabrics, Habley corner chaise is from £1,050, Next

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An armchair offers a great way to indulge in a fabulous colour or patterned fabric and the style will set the mood for the room. Peggy armchair in Dusty Rose velvet, £560, sofa.com



Armchairs

* Create a focal point in a room by adding a stylish armchair. Pick an unusual shape, bright or patterned fabric, or contrasting piping and buttons.

* The growing trend is for snugglers and loveseats, which are halfway between an armchair and a small sofa, and are ideal if you need to squeeze in an extra person – plus they're a good fit for a bay window space.

* Opt for sprung seats and backs for a firmer feel and elegant appearance, or cushions for a more relaxed look.

* If you have a young family choose a loose cover or 'tailored' zipped covers so they can be dry cleaned or laundered.

* The seat height and depth make a big difference to comfort, especially if you're short, so rather than simply checking measurements online, visit a showroom and sit down!

* Leather is hardwearing and looks great, but don't place it close to radiators as it can dry out and crack.

* Buying a spare set of loose or 'tailored' covers will extend the life of the chair and you can change your look with the seasons.



If you intend to supply your own fabric, check its suitability with your furniture supplier first

- 1 Super stripe** Upholstered in Belgian linen, the Kentwell chair in Dovedale Carmine, W94cm, £1,015, Sofas & Stuff, is a smart choice
- 2 Meadow fresh** The Penryn armchair in Sanderson Simi Pearl, W98cm, £1,300, John Lewis, updates a traditional shape with a modern floral fabric
- 3 Pattern power** Customise the Hogarth armchair, W75cm, seen here in Osborne & Little's Ithaki Blue, with your choice of fabric, wood finish and piping, £1,821, The Sofa & Chair Company
- 4 Lighter look** This Carnaby armchair, in Oatmeal Herringbone, W94cm, £329, Swoon Editions, marries wool fabric with a mango wood frame
- 5 Talking point** Sculpted Deco velvet emphasises the shape of the Eltham Chair, W82cm, £749, Marks & Spencer
- 6 Cuddle up** The two-seater Marlborough Snuggler, in Dove Grey cotton/linen, W130cm, is £795, Within
- 7 Colour pop** Be bold with the Garston Love seat in Deep Pink velvet, W140cm, £499, made.com
- 8 Cushy seat** The Monty Love seat in Cloud Blue vintage linen, W100cm, £1,245, Loaf, is ideal to lounge on
- 9 Take leave** Bring nature indoors with the Stockholm high-back armchair in Mosta Green, £300, Ikea
- 10 Bright idea** In smaller spaces, the tall but narrow Puxley in Purity Velvet Peacock Blue, W72cm, £1,414, Duresta, works well
- 11 Bold floral** Opt for an appealing bird print for the Halstead chair in Monsoon Home Calista Cardinal, W89cm, £1,149, Multiyork
- 12 Stay slim** You can buy a matching footstool with the Nordic armchair in Soft Texture Powder Blue, W75cm, £425, Next

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** ON PAGE 122

LATEST LOOKS UPDATE

Choose from the on trend styles that will
update your living room beautifully



STANDOUT DISPLAY
Team eclectic designs with rich colours
and striking furniture for a scheme
with the wow factor

Green living ● Deep forest shades are the starting point for a dramatically dark scheme, where the sensational Manhattan large sofa in Linwood Omega Grass, W203cm, £1,789, Multiyork, takes centre stage ● Embrace a lush botanical theme with a selection of cushions in Sanderson Acanthus Tapestry Forest/Hemp, £69 each, and Sanderson Manilla Green/Ivory, £65 each, both Multiyork ● The walls and skirting are painted to match for maximum impact. Soft Fauna 1, from the Paint Mixing Matt range, £24.49 for 2.5L, from Dulux, is similarly rich and inviting ● Floorboards painted in black have a glossy, reflective sparkle ● A shapely dark wood retro-style coffee table with gently splayed legs works beautifully in the scheme, blending with the variety of green tones ● House plants in black or grey holders form a strong focal point, while glimmers of coppery tones here and there catch the eye



Retro influence ● On-trend grey kicks off this scheme, which blends 1950s style with contemporary design ● Mini Moderns Geometric patterned Backgammon wallpaper in Concrete, £50 a roll, Wallpaperdirect, creates a focal point ● The Holly three-seater, W215cm, £1,100, sofa.com, is invitingly soft ● Introduce a shot of sunshine with zingy yellow cushions ● Balance the scheme with rich wooden flooring and furniture



Modern geo ● Invest in a dark corner sofa as a strong base for clear, bright colours. Ben de Lisi Cara Chaise corner sofa in Charcoal, W277cm, £1,385, Debenhams ● Add a shot of colour to a wall or alcove, try a vivid blue paint such as Colours Premium Any Room Blue Capri matt emulsion, £19.84 for 2.5L, B&Q ● Extend the colour palette with a geometric rug, such as the Ben de Lisi Home Rhombus rug, 120cm x 170cm, £180, Debenhams



Smart vintage ● A new take on the gentleman's club look is set against grey panelled walls. Farrow & Ball's Railings Modern emulsion, £42 for 2.5L, is similar ● The chestnut brown Newport large leather sofa with scatter cushions, W201cm, £1,695, sits alongside the Ercol Originals nest of tables in three colours, £516 ● For rustic chic, add the Rodeo cowhide rug, £435; Cambridge table lamp, £119; and Paris iron wall clock, £239; all Furniture Village



Folklore fashion ● Pile on the pattern by layering folk-art inspired rugs, including the circular Virring in White, dia 80cm, £10; Akerkulla in Black, 133cm x 195cm, £35; and Akerkulla in White, 80cm x 150cm, £20; all Ikea ● Turn up the colour dial with three Knopparp Bright Yellow sofas, W119cm, £79 each, Ikea ● Add neutral curtains and use simple mirror panels to decorate plain white walls

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NEW TRADITION
 Create a warm welcome with
 timeless designs, a neutral palette
 and rich textures

Neutral update • For a relaxed living space, start the scheme by painting walls soft grey: try Inox Absolute matt emulsion, £37 for 2.5L, Little Greene • An off-white sofa, such as the Warwick Large Chenille sofa, W190cm, £699, Tesco Direct, will keep the look light and is all the more welcoming piled up with a snuggly faux fur throw and cushions in creamy tones • Natural wood brings warmth and definition to the room. Ruskin coffee table, £149; Ruskin nest of tables, £99; Wooden Tripod floor lamp, £79; all Tesco Direct • Roll out a little pattern underfoot with a Grey Triangle rug, 120cm x 170cm, £90, Tesco, which will help to cosy up the wooden floorboards • Silvery highlights shimmer from the selection of bowls, picture frames and the hammered stainless-steel storage canister, £8, Tesco Direct



Cool character ● Powder pink and pale grey make an elegant team in a formal living room ● The traditional Eaton sofa, W197cm, £3,923, Delcor, is covered in Nina Campbell Montacute Weaves Pencarrow ● For a hint of English country garden romance, try the similar Peonies cushion, £45, Laura Ashley ● Go for symmetry with a pair of deep-buttoned Club chairs in Osborne & Little Brehon Linens Donard, W75cm, £1,374 each, Delcor



Country plaid ● Create a seaside-inspired scheme starting with pale checked upholstery. Seaton two-seater sofa in Harris Check Duck Egg, W157cm, £1,729, Parker Knoll ● Wall panelling extends the check design, while walls and floor are kept simple in white ● Add texture with a flatweave zigzag design rug such as the similar Ives Natural (200cm x 66cm), £45, Rugstore NE. Complete the theme with a coastal picture, starfish and gull ornaments



Pared-back chic ● Keeping a room free of excess furniture creates a soothing scheme and choosing one big seating unit is a great way to start. Broadstairs large corner sofa with nautical-mix cushions, £3,416, Sofas & Stuff ● A cream and white palette sets a warm, pared-back backdrop ● Hanging natural unlined linen or cotton curtains maintains the relaxed feel. Similar curtains in Rum, £50.40, The Natural Curtain Company



Dark tones ● Go rustic by fixing wooden boards to a wall or try Mr Perswall Forest Feel Communication mural, H265cm x W405cm, £248, Wallpaperdirect ● A classic sofa is updated with dark grey fabric and black legs sets a monochrome theme. Stocksund sofa in Nollhaga dark grey, W199cm, £525, Ikea ● Complete the look with a pair of Arkelstorp sideboards, £195 each; and Kragsta coffee table, £75; all Ikea

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MODERN MIX

Clean lines and pale shades give living spaces a modern edge

Whiter than white ● Keeping the style simple and colours pale and toning are the keys to the success of this living room, which has a modern, minimalist feel ● Against pale grey walls and polished floorboards, white is used generously starting with the sofa in luxurious white leather. The Freya four-seater lounge sofa costs £1,395, from the House Beautiful collection at DFS ● Introduce soft tones, such as the oyster, grey and soft pink cushions for a hint of colour that complements the neutral scheme. Choose textured fabrics to contrast with the smooth leather ● A large square metal-framed coffee table echoes the angular shape of the seating. Similar table available at Amode ● On a console table behind the sofa is a collection of glossy white, shapely vases that continue the simple, elegant theme. Find similar vases at West Elm



Bold contrast ● White walls and crisp white blinds are a clean backdrop in this modern space. For similar blinds try Soft White & Linen wooden blind, 50mm slat, from £35.90 for W60cm x 100cm drop, Blinds 2 Go ● Team rich colour and pattern in the seating. Harlequin corner sofa, W366cm, £2,995, Furniture Village. A limed Budapest coffee table, £249, and Braided cream wool rug, £249, both Furniture Village, link with whitewashed floorboards



Industrial edge ● Add interest to a pale colour palette with curvy shapes and eye-catching design. Ergo Retro Button Back two-seater sofa, W153cm, £975, and matching chair, £790, both Alexander & Pearl, with stud edging and striped seat cushions ● A large coffee table in industrial-style metal and pale wood sits alongside a nest of shapely side tables. Marseille coffee table, £545, and Marseille side table, £295, both Alexander & Pearl



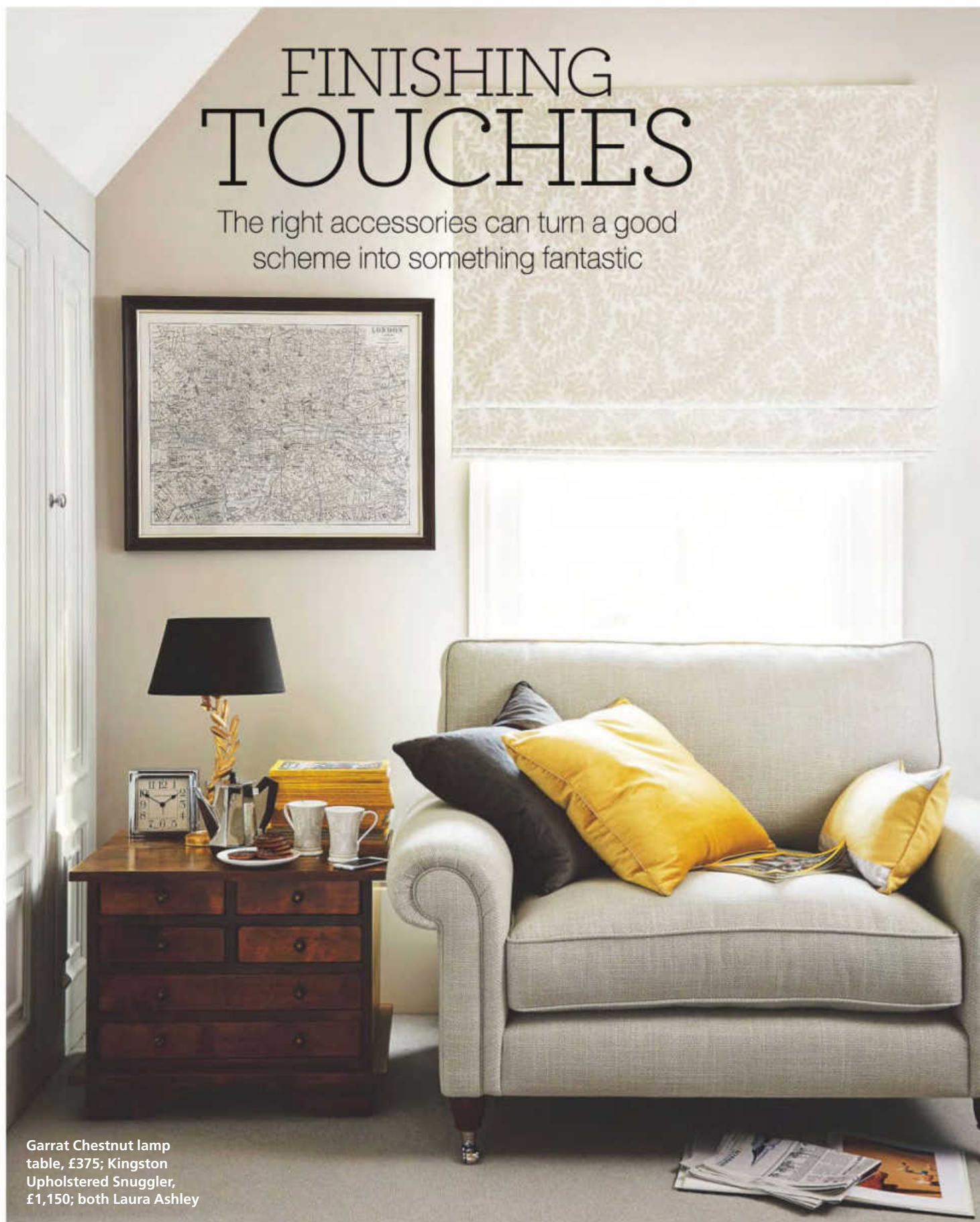
Modern Scandi ● A mix of graphic patterns is linked to a deep blue feature wall. Similar wallpaper is Today Interiors' Ornate Trellis, £85 a roll, Wallpaperdirect ● The flecked grey of the Savalen corner chaise, £2,145, footstool, £399, and chair, £755, subtly links with the contrasting Savalen Accent chair, £1,175 ● The two-tone rug, from £225, picks up on the geometrics. All Barker & Stonehouse



Graphic mix ● Team taupe walls with black-painted floorboards to show off chevron patterns. The Lappljung rug, £60, Ikea, and Chevron throw, £69, Bijou Home, are similar ● A sofa with a neat shape is perfect where space is in short supply. Montana sofa, W168cm, £1,606, Parker Knoll ● Similar floor lamp, £382, Brewers Home. Lookalike white ByAlex A side table, £115, Made in Design

FINISHING TOUCHES

The right accessories can turn a good scheme into something fantastic



Garrat Chestnut lamp table, £375; Kingston Upholstered Snuggler, £1,150; both Laura Ashley



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Side orders

1 On the surface The Mojo side table with an intricate handmade bone inlay top and unusual vintage steel legs, £225, Loaf, is a thing of beauty

2 Under cover Designs with inbuilt storage are doubly useful. This designer piece is practical and super smart, with a semi-concealed shelf under the surface. Horizon coffee table by Matthew Hilton, £2,586, Heal's

3 Touch wood Traditional styles have an enduring appeal, but re-interpreted in a new colour, material or with a different texture, the familiar can take on a fresh look. Engraved wood pedestal table, £129.99, Zara Home

4 Added value Look out for versatile designs, such as this Harlem Industrial side table, £225, Alexander & Pearl, which has a lower shelf for extra storage and wheels that allow you to move it around

5 Two times table Nesting tables are excellent space

savers. Separate them to give an additional surface when needed and stow one under the other for neatness. Retro-style Ansac Smoked Black Glass nest of tables, £129, Harveys

6 Fine featured When space is tight but you need a surface for a lamp, cup or cocktail, a dainty piece such as this metal pedestal table is ideal. Martini table in Aged Gold Leaf or Black Iron finish, £345, I & JL Brown

7 Geometry lesson A table with an openwork base will look lighter than a solid piece, making the room feel spacious. The Origami side table, £249, West Elm, also has a small base so is perfect next to a sofa

8 Pure and simple While the shape of this craftsman-made table couldn't be simpler, the grain pattern on the surface adds interest and celebrates the natural attributes of the timber. Frame oak coffee table, £195, Joined + Jointed

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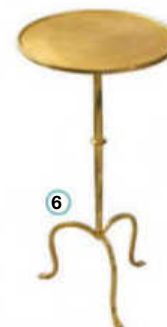
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Shining examples

1 Shady character

Lampshades are great for delivering a pop of colour in a neutral room. With the most vibrant hues, a little goes a long way. Dexter floor lamp, £126, Barker & Stonehouse

2 Point of light Reading lights need to focus on the page and this one has a narrow beam that creates a small pool of light and an intimate atmosphere. Clarke LED floor lamp, £220, John Lewis

3 Up to the task An adjustable lamp that can be precisely angled is an essential desk accessory. This good-looking choice brings functional style to a room. Desk light, £100, Cox & Cox

4 A flash of brilliance When the light is turned on, this tinted resin lampbase glows with a jewel-like intensity. Aurora lamp, £70; shade, £40; both Pooky

5 Shapely legs A new interpretation of the tripod lamp, the Cyprus floor lamp is tall, elegant and glamorous, £299, Marks & Spencer

6 Tumbling blocks Living room furniture tends to be large scale, so choose table lamps that are in proportion, such as this striking design in bronze-finish resin. Cube table light (H80cm), £170, Out There Interiors

7 Match set Light fittings from the same design family give a room a co-ordinated look. The Truman comes as a wall fitting, floor lamp or adjustable table lamp in a range of colours. The table lamp is £35 from made.com

8 Mid-century magic Lamps based on classic 1960s designs give retro-inspired interiors an authentic look and this Nesso table lamp comes in the original colours. It's £50 from Iconic Lights





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Neat solutions

1 Cabinet role With its combination of drawers, cupboards and a long surface that's ideal for display, a sideboard is a great all-in-one storage piece. Romana large oak sideboard, £1,940, Ercol

2 Abstract view Compartmentalised shelves allow you to divide the space between storage and display more easily and visually frame your favourite objects. Chiltern small shelves (H83cm x W101cm), £165, Next

3 Multi-tasking There's no need to clear the top of this table to access the interior – the panels remain level as they swing out. Chiva coffee table, £729, Boconcept

4 Bright baskets Colour-coded containers make tidying up easier. These Restore polymer felt baskets (L45cm), £69 each, Skandium, come

in a choice of colours and are excellent for storing magazines and other bits and pieces

5 S is for shelving Low-level pieces are useful for display, storage and as somewhere to place your TV. This Contour TV shelving unit in Stone Lacquer finish with chrome, £199, Dwell, is simple but smart

6 Hidden away You can use an ottoman as a footstool, seat, coffee table or storage chest, making it the ultimate multi-purpose piece for the living room. Skandi ottoman in a choice of four understated colours including this Duck Egg, £99.99, Dunelm

7 TV star If you don't want media gadgets to dominate your living room, look for storage furniture that gives a balance of open shelves and drawer storage. Hygena Retro TV unit, £179, Homebase



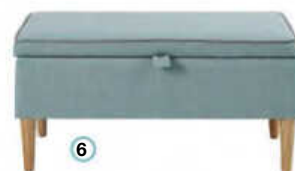
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Ground cover

1 Soft touch Tapis d'Avignon rugs are made from wool felt in modular designs using bespoke colour combinations. From £773.40, Roger Oates

2 Blurred lines Unique, handmade items such as this flatweave wool rug by textile artist Ptolemy Mann will give your home a truly individual touch. Petrol Grey Colourfield Gelim, £750, notonthehighstreet.com

3 Make the connection A rug that echoes the colour and pattern of furnishing fabrics or wallpaper helps to unify a scheme. Dandelion Clocks tufted wool rug, from £425, Sanderson

4 Fine stitching Flat weave and cut pile are the most familiar types of rug, but crewelwork versions embroidered in wool have wonderfully intricate patterns and a soft surface. Lattice rug, £355, Niki Jones

5 Talking texture Different fibres have their own special qualities and this rug owes its luxurious looks to the lustrous viscose/rayon pile. Eberson ombre rug in Cobalt, from £1,145, Designers Guild

6 Smooth surface Flatweave cotton rugs are affordable, practical and a great way to bring colour to the heart of your living room. Red, white and blue Symmetrical dhurrie, from £295, Mahout Lifestyle

7 Inspired by tradition Patterns borrowed from tribal rugs but executed in smart designer colours will work particularly well in a modern setting. Chelak rug, £485, Oka

8 In the round A circular rug is a great centrepiece. Choose a size large enough to touch all the furniture around it. Nomadic O2 circular rug, from £109, I Love Retro



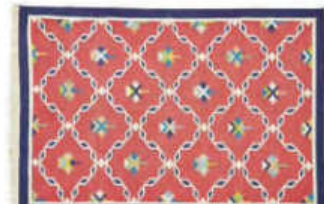
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Private view

1 Hit parade Enjoy a blast from the past and display favourite album covers. Record Frame to fit standard album sleeves, £9.95 each, Rigby & Mac

2 Vintage modern To create a 1960s look, track down examples of pop art and psychedelia. Framed prints: *Pop*, £160; *The Look*, £265; both Surface View

3 Graphic prints Simple shapes in bright tones look especially good against plain white walls. *Lights* by Yusuke Yonezu, £35 unframed, Habitat

4 Mirror mirror Art Deco style features in the tri-folding carriage mirror, £150, and single mirrors from £55, all Graham and Green

5 Art gallery Pictures and photographs have more impact when grouped together and a multi-frame does the job for you. Combiframe for eight pictures, £125, Out There Interiors

6 Reflected glory Go for a pretty mirror with a simple frame

to add a decorative element to the room. Ornate framed mirror, from £14.95, Rockett St George

7 Artist's impression An original painting may cost hundreds of pounds, but giclée prints are a close copy of the artist's work at a fraction of the price. *Jug of Flowers* canvas, £95, An Angel At My Table



WHERE TO BUY

Alexander & Pearl 020 8508 0411;
alexanderandpearl.co.uk

An Angel At My Table 0845 200 0723;
anangelatmytable.com

Anthropologie 00800 0026 8476;
anthropologie.eu

Arlo & Jacob 0333 122 1537;
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B&Q 0333 014 3357; diy.com

Barker & Stonehouse 0333 920 6705;
barkerandstonehouse.co.uk

Bijou Home 01482 869319; bijouhome.co.uk
blinds-2go.co.uk 0800 862 0464

Boconcept boconcept.co.uk
Brewers Home 01323 436180;

brewershome.co.uk
Content by Terence Conran 020 8150

8380; contentbyterenceconran.com
Debenhams 0844 561 6161; debenhams.com

Cox & Cox 0844 858 0744; coxandcox.co.uk
Delcor 0191 237 1303; delcor.co.uk

Designers Guild 020 7351 5775;
designersguild.com

DFS 0808 250 8287; dfs.co.uk

Dulux 0333 222 7171; dulux.co.uk

Dunelm 0345 165 6565; dunelm-mill.co.uk

Dwell 0845 675 9090; dwell.co.uk

Ercol 01844 271800; ercol.com

Farrow & Ball farrow-ball.com

French Bedroom Company (The) 01444

415430; frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk

Furniture Village 0800 804 8879;

furniturevillage.co.uk

Graham and Green 020 8987 3700;

grahamandgreen.co.uk

G Plan 0141 613 7200; gplan.co.uk

Habitat 0344 499 1111; habitat.co.uk

Harveys 0344 847 2626;

harveysfurniture.co.uk

Heal's 020 7896 7451; heals.co.uk

Homebase 0345 077 8888; homebase.co.uk

I & J.L. Brown 020 7736 4141;

brownantiques.com

Iconic Lights 0161 837 6092;

iconiclights.co.uk

Idyll Home 01270 812717; idyllhome.co.uk

Ikea 020 3645 0000; ikea.co.uk

I Love Retro 0776 873 8914;

iloveretro.co.uk

John Lewis 0345 604 9049; johnlewis.com

Joined + Jointed 020 7371 7766;

joinedandjointed.com

Laura Ashley 0333 200 8009;

lauraashley.com

Linwood 01425 461176; linwoodfabric.com

Little Greene 0845 880 5855;

littlegreene.com

Loaf 0845 468 0697; loaf.com

made.com 0344 257 1888

Made In Design 020 7692 4001;

madeindesign.co.uk

Mahout Lifestyle 0845 116 6333;

mahoutlifestyle.com

Marks & Spencer 0333 014 8000;

marksandspencer.com

Modern 0344 482 7660; modern.co.uk

Modern Rugs 01388 663738;

modern-rugs.co.uk

Multiyork 0333 358 3567; multiyork.co.uk

Natural Curtain Company (The) 0333 122

3175; thenaturalcurtaincompany.com

Natuzzi 020 3553 3856; natuzzi.co.uk

Next 0333 777 8000; next.co.uk

Niki Jones 0141 556 2462; niki-jones.co.uk

Nina Campbell 020 8812 3123

osborneandlittle.com

notonthehighstreet.com 0345 259 1359

Oka 0844 815 7380; okadirect.com

Osborne & Little 020 7352 1456;

osborneandlittle.com

Out There Interiors 020 8099 7443;

outthereinteriors.com

Parker Knoll 01773 604121;

parkerknoll.co.uk

Pooky 020 7351 3003; pooky.com

Rigby & Mac 020 8761 1011; rigbyandmac.com

Rockett St George 01444 253391;

rockettstgeorge.co.uk

Roger Oates 01531 632718; rogeroates.com

Rug Store NE 0191 549 2783;

rugstorene.co.uk

Sanderson 0844 543 9500; sanderson-uk.com

Skandium 020 7935 2077; skandium.com

Sofa & Chair Company (The) 020 8752

8935; thesofaandchair.co.uk

sofa.com 0345 400 2222

Sofas & Stuff sofasandstuff.com

Sofaworks 020 7580 8444; sofaworks.co.uk

Sofa Workshop 0808 256 3586;

sofaworkshop.com

Surface View surfaceview.co.uk

Swoon Editions 020 3137 2464;

swooneditions.com

Tesco Direct 0330 123 4050; tesco.com/direct

Wallpaperdirect 01323 430886;

wallpaperdirect.com

West Elm 0800 404 9780; westelm.co.uk

Within 020 7087 2900; withinhome.com

WovenGround 020 7193 0505;

wovenground.net

Zara Home 0800 026 0091; zarahome.com



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CELEBRATE **AMAZING** TRANSFORMATIONS

From whole house revamps to clever room makeovers, House Beautiful pulls the dust sheets off inspiring home projects

HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Swedish-born Ulrika Muller, 39, an artist and designer, her husband Morné, 40, a project manager at Leconfield Property Group, and their two children, Luke, nine, and Vera, seven

THE RENOVATION

A three-bedroom cottage-style terraced house in Tooting, south London, has been renovated throughout and transformed into a modern and light-filled space. It was bought for £245,000, and the couple spent around £45,000 on the renovation – they did a lot of the building, carpentry and painting themselves. The house is now worth £675,000



A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

An urban cottage has been transformed into a Scandi-style family home by an artist and her husband

WORDS CHRIS SALZANO PHOTOGRAPHY TIM MITCHELL/AMBIENCE IMAGES

BEFORE

Large glass candle holders from Oka sit on the half-wall that divides the living room and kitchen area

Morné adapted the Ikea cabinets to suit the space and fitted a Silestone worktop from Marble City. The large-format porcelain floor tiles are from European Heritage

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Smart floor-to-ceiling units built by Morné house the TV and his and Ulrika's work spaces

When artist Ulrika Muller and her husband Morné went to view a dark, cramped cottage in Tooting, south London, they struggled to see its potential. 'These houses were built for workers in 1910 and the layout had hardly changed since then. You could just about stand and open a cupboard door in the two small rooms and narrow kitchen downstairs,' explains Ulrika.

Now in a conservation area, the house is part of a cottage estate that was strongly influenced by both the Garden City and the Arts & Crafts movements of the late 19th century. A complete overhaul was needed and, although it was Morné and Ulrika's sixth renovation, it was also their biggest, taking four years to complete.

What makes their achievement even more remarkable is that they did most of the work themselves while living in the property and raising two children. 'There was a lot of going out to the park and eating lunch in the garden, making it an adventure for the children,' says Ulrika with a laugh.

The decor hadn't been touched since the 1970s. Not put off by the scale of the task, the couple threw themselves into the project, gutting the house and removing internal walls downstairs. Both of them had previously worked on renovating luxury properties – Ulrika drawing up architectural plans for an interior designer and Morné as a builder – and their experience was evident in the design. Ulrika wanted the cottage to be both cosy and to have a modern loft feel. Now pale oak flooring runs throughout downstairs, complemented by a palette of soft greys on the walls and doors. In the living area, bespoke shelves flank a log burner and Ulrika's paintings hang on the walls.

Morné's father, a master builder in South Africa, flew in to help with the construction of the kitchen extension. For three months the

family decamped into what are now the children's bedrooms. 'We must have lived and slept in every room and the kitchen has been in every corner of the house,' recalls Ulrika.

There were, of course, plenty of testing moments in taking on so much of the work themselves. 'Morné and I put together the bi-fold doors in the living room – it took nine hours! Then we had to lift them down into the kitchen and fit them. That was a challenge,' says Ulrika.

Ulrika likes to paint in the light-filled kitchen, made up of Ikea units adapted by Morné with Silestone worktops. Large porcelain floor tiles run onto the patio adding to the sense of space. On the first floor are the children's bedrooms. 'They've been very creative in this house,' explains Ulrika. 'They could see what we were doing and took part. We're starting early, training them to be property developers!'

Key to creating the sense of space was clever storage and the couple designed and built their own. Recessed into one wall in the living room are floor-to-ceiling cupboards in which the TV nestles between two hidden office spaces.

A master bedroom has been created in the loft but restrictions meant only Velux windows could be used. 'Our neighbours were told by a loft conversion company that they didn't have the height for a room in the loft, but we knew there must be a way,' says Morné. 'I lowered the joists and dropped the ceilings on the first floor by 200mm. Now we have a great space up there.'

It's very much this can-do attitude that has shaped the Muller's beautiful and functional home. 'When I renovate a house it's to suit how we live,' says Ulrika. 'This is a perfect home for us even though it's small – I think that a lot of houses bigger than ours don't offer as much as this one does.' [HB](#)

● See Ulrika's art on Facebook at [UlrikaMullerArt](#)



One of Ulrika's paintings is a striking contrast to the classical elements in the dining area



In the couple's loft bedroom, bespoke cupboards built into the eaves provide enough room for all of their clothes. The bed is from Nordic Style

SEEING THE POTENTIAL

Ulrika's tips for renovating

- * Look at the floorplan and consider what you want from the house. Imagine yourself using the space. Will you have enough room when you pull out a chair from the table?
- * Think about the way you live and plan the layout accordingly.
- * Once you have a plan, try to stick to it – changing things costs money. We mostly got things through a network of contacts in the building industry, but otherwise we shopped around. And we always bought the best quality we could afford.

WHAT IT COST

Building work	£9,000
Plumbing and electrics	£4,500
Stairs and flooring	£7,200
Built-in furniture	£3,500
Kitchen	£7,500
Bathroom	£3,500
Velux windows and bi-fold doors	£4,100
Decorating	£1,000
TOTAL	£40,300

FOR MORE HOME INSPIRATION, SEE housebeautiful.co.uk



Bi-fold doors connect the kitchen extension with the garden



GOLD BEAUTY

Susie Lewis, 36, her husband Simon, 50, and their five children aged between three and 11, live in a four-storey, five-bedroom Victorian townhouse in north London.

Over the past seven years the couple have been getting the house just as they like it. The kitchen/diner has a big playroom at the back where they spend most of their time, but they also wanted an adults-only space – a living room that wasn't piled high with toys.

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WALLPAPER
Keeping everything else neutral is the key to using a dramatic paper on all four walls

BLINDS
Because of the flamboyant walls, the blinds needed to be plain. Susie added thermal linings to keep in the heat

STOVE
The large room had often felt cold, but now a woodburning stove brings a warm and cosy feel

FLOOR
Painting the boards white kept the flooring cost low

BEFORE



ACTION PLAN

CONVERT BEDROOM INTO A LIVING ROOM

ENABLE IT TO DOUBLE AS A SPARE ROOM

LIVEN IT UP WITH DRAMATIC WALLPAPER

ADD STOVE AND PAINT FLOORBOARDS



'I adore my kids, but it's lovely to be able to sit down and relax in a calm, tidy room without plastic toys littering the floor,' SAYS SUSIE

Have you done much work on the house?

It hadn't been touched for many years when we bought it. At one time it had been flats, so there was plenty to do. We love the house and it overlooks a garden square, which means there's somewhere we can easily take the children.

Was this room an obvious choice for a grown-up living room?

The room is on the first floor at the front and was the perfect choice. It has two enormous windows overlooking the green square and there's a fireplace. When we first moved in, it was being used as the master bedroom, which seemed a huge waste. Getting downstairs sorted and the children's bedrooms decorated was a priority, so we just gave it a coat of white paint and put up some sheer curtains, and that's how it stayed for a few years.

What prompted you to get it decorated?

It was becoming a bit of a dumping ground and with the children getting older and the back room downstairs becoming their playroom, I wanted somewhere calm where Simon and I could relax in the evening when they'd all gone to bed. Also I'm Australian, and we often have relatives visiting and this doubles as the spare room with the sofa bed getting plenty of use.

You had a colour scheme in mind...

I'm often drawn to my national colours of green and gold. Also I wanted to reflect the green of the square outside and thought some dramatic wallpaper would liven things up. I loved this one and initially thought about using it on just one wall. We asked the

opinion of our friend Louise, who lives in Paris and is very stylish.

She said put it on all four walls! At first I was a bit hesitant but Simon, who has complete faith in Louise's taste, was keen and now I adore it.

After this main feature, what was next?

The room was very cold. It had a nice fireplace, but we ripped out the inefficient gas fire a while ago. We'd always fancied a woodburning stove, but the first one we looked at wasn't suitable for our chimney. We needed expert advice and found it at a nearby shop, and ordered a small, traditional woodburner. It belts out heat and has become the focal point of the room, though we found we had to factor in fitting costs that were almost as much as the price of the stove.

The windows are lovely and big

As the wallpaper is so bold we realised we couldn't put any colour or pattern at the windows, so went for plain cream Roman blinds. They are less fussy than curtains and leave the lovely architrave on show.

How was your budget going?

We spent a lot on the stove, wallpaper and blinds and saved money on the flooring and furniture. The floorboards were sound and we painted them in soft white. The two sofas were several years old, but good quality, so we just added new cushions. Simon put up shelves, and we bought a new desk and chair to make an office area.

You've given the room an individual look

I found an eBay site selling '50s, '60s and '70s restored furniture, old lamps and Czech glassware and we treated ourselves to some pieces that have made all the difference.

IN
DETAIL

Susie has created a small office area with shelving and a desk and chair



A collection of old Czech glass, a vintage German clock and metal bookends have pride of place



New bright yellow knitted cushions give a lift to the sofa

GET THE LOOK



Harper Clic Clac **sofa bed**, £249, Tesco



Austin copper wall **spot lights**, £69, made.com



Hergom E30-XS compact **stove**, from £985, Eurostove

WHAT IT COST

Paint.....	£152
Wallpaper.....	£506
Furniture.....	£395
Mirror.....	£125
Blinds.....	£220
Stove and fitting.....	£1,715
Lighting.....	£419
Total.....	£3,532

THE NEW LAYOUT



SHOPPING LIST

Woodwork painted in Cornforth White Estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5L; floor painted in Cornforth White Floor paint, £99 for 5L; both Farrow & Ball. Harlequin Poetica Bonica 110583 **wallpaper**, £46 a roll, Wallpaper Direct. Essential Cloud Cream **Roman blinds** with thermal lining, £110 each, Tuiss. Sirius 405 Original Traditional woodburning **stove** and pipe, £915, The Better Hearth. Old check **sofa bed**, £500, Habitat. Old leather **sofa**, £1,700, After Noah (find similar at John Lewis). Fleur oak **dressing table**, £300; Hester red stackable **chair**, £95; yellow **cushions**, £45 each; copper **ceiling light**, £100; all Habitat. Wooden **shelves**, £20 each, Leroy Merlin. **Shelf brackets**, £3 each, Ikea. Copper **table light** on sideboard, £189; yellow **lamp** on desk, £130; wooden **clock**, £50; Czech three-colour glass **vases**, £150-£350 a piece; **bookends**, £170; all Joachim Djavadi. Yellow knitted **footstool**, £70, Next. Olaf oval **mirror**, £125, Loaf **HB**



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**BEST IN SHOW**

Stylised graphic blooms suit a contemporary scheme. Issy in Quince, £44 a roll, Villa Nova

**TOTALLY TROPICAL**

Palm leaves get a new look with a glittery background. Honolulu in Palm Green, £20 a roll, Julien Macdonald for Graham & Brown

**GOOD FRONDS**

Ideal for a garden room, this fern print will bring the outdoors in. Athyrium in 110215, £36 a roll, Scion

**BRANCH OUT**

One for Arts & Crafts fans; this pattern is inspired by an original tile design. Rosehip in 214 710, £50 a roll, Morris & Co

Lush LEAVES

Liven up walls with these fabulous foliage prints

**TAKE A LEAF**

A scattered leaves design with a subtle metallic shimmer is stunning. Kayin in W6725-02, £68 a roll, Osborne & Little

**BLOOMING LOVELY**

Add delicate colour and detail to a bedroom with this pretty pattern. Dardanella, £48 a roll, Harlequin

**TIMELESS STYLE**

This elegant trailing design is based on an 18th-century silk. Ringwold in BP1638, £95 a roll, Farrow & Ball

**GREEN GAUGE**

Go for a bold botanical look with natural leaves in a graphic design. Ginkgo in 562-58, £76 a roll, Sandberg



PERFECTLY PLANNED

With a fantastic array of quality kitchen and furniture designs, Crown Imperial's Daventry showroom is the ultimate destination for stylish, modern homes

Most of us dream of having a beautiful home – a place that exudes up-to-the-minute style and comfort and looks a million dollars. But the best interiors ideas are those that work on a practical level too, where everything from kitchen designs and living and bedroom storage solutions are versatile and work hard to ensure that elegant spaces can also be useful.

These days the kitchen is the hub of the modern family

home, where the perfect mix of style, practicality and quality are paramount. With Crown Imperial it has never been easier to find a kitchen design that's tailor-made for you.

More than 65 years of furniture heritage and British craftsmanship are combined with a host of modern design ideas – from contemporary worktop finishes to state-of-the-art appliances – to culminate in unique spaces. The result? You're guaranteed a simple to achieve kitchen that meets your family's needs and wishes.



Rococo matt in a zingy yellow and white creates a showstopping kitchen



Add gorgeous pastel shades with Rococo matt bedroom and Lifespace storage in Cool White and Oxygen

Crown Imperial is a family-run British manufacturer that understands how modern families live and has created versatile designs that will work now and into the future



Go to crown-daventry.co.uk or call **01227 742424** to book your visit. Alternatively visit your local Crown independent specialist who will be happy to guide you through the furniture solutions and styles available.



Cotswood is a modern classic Shaker design in oak, available in 21 stunning colours

Destination Daventry

Crown Imperial understands that seeing is believing, which is why it has created a stunning 15,000-square-foot showroom to display all of its home furniture and kitchen designs in one easy-to-get-to location. Centrally situated in Daventry it's conveniently close to the M1 and M40 and there's plenty of free parking to ensure a hassle-free trip.

With a relaxed setting, Daventry is a showroom experience with a unique

difference; there are no sales people, just friendly product experts who are on hand to give advice or a quick tour.

Why not make a day of it and take time to browse more than 80 classic and traditionally styled room sets at your leisure? See the range of more than 200 different style, colour and finish combinations in situ as well as the leading names in branded appliances and worktop finishes. It's an ideal opportunity to choose your perfect kitchen, bedroom or interior living space with ease and comfort.

BEST OF
Britain
Kitchen - Living - Bedroom



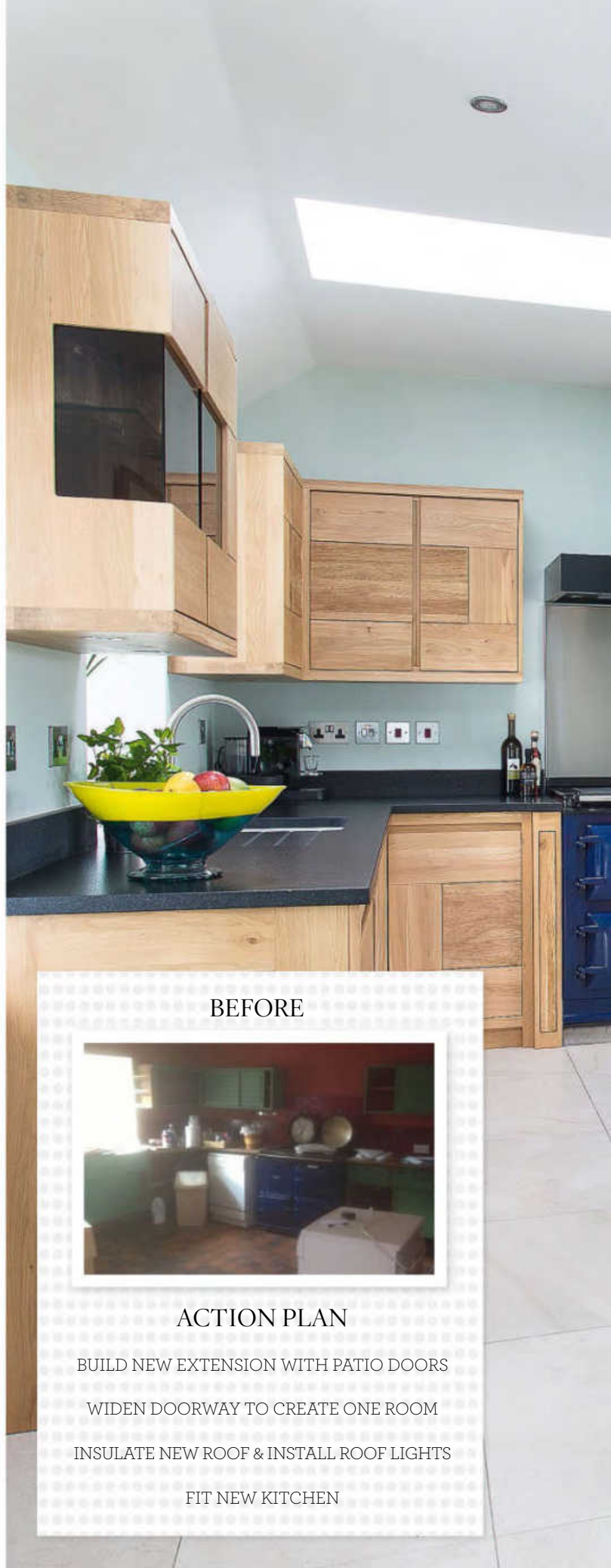


LOCHSIDE LIGHT

Moving the kitchen and making it larger and lighter has transformed this home.

Penny Hutton and her husband James, both 48, and their children Chloe and Hector moved to an extended 18th-century farmhouse near Loch Lomond, Stirlingshire, two years ago. It had been divided into two properties by a previous owner and the Huttons made it one home again, knocking down an old conservatory and enlarging a kitchen.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE



BEFORE



ACTION PLAN

BUILD NEW EXTENSION WITH PATIO DOORS

WIDEN DOORWAY TO CREATE ONE ROOM

INSULATE NEW ROOF & INSTALL ROOF LIGHTS

FIT NEW KITCHEN

COOKER HOOD

This was built to match the width of the six-door Aga, which came from the family's previous kitchen

WORKTOP

As it doesn't smear when wiped, the matt granite surface always looks good

UNITS

With no obvious door or cupboard handles, the pattern of the wood continues uninterrupted

SYMMETRY

The driftwood-effect panels fit together in a pattern

MEMORIES

A stunning photograph of a view from a previous home inspired everything from the style of the wooden units to the colour of the wall paint

LIGHTING

Original World War II RAF landing lights create a dramatic statement over the large island

STORAGE

Long, deep drawers on the oak island can accommodate tall vases and jugs

‘A previous owner had divided the property in two, but we made it whole again, enlarging one of the kitchens with a new extension,’ SAYS PENNY

You inherited quite a confusing layout

Over the years the house had been extended several times, and eventually it was divided into two properties. By removing one extension we’ve returned it to how it was in the 1970s, creating a much improved layout with a lot more light.

Why did you choose to move the kitchen?

The main house had a small, dark kitchen while the one in the second, smaller dwelling was large and had lovely views towards Loch Lomond. We decided to extend this kitchen by removing an old conservatory and replacing it with a solid extension.

What was the starting point of the design?

We planned the kitchen around a triptych photograph of the beach at Alderney in the Channel Islands where we used to live before moving here two years ago. We chose the blues, greys and natural wood that feature in the picture. There was just one wall in the kitchen big enough for the picture and it limited the storage that could be fitted there. To make up for this we’ve included a large island that provides plenty of cupboard space and keeps the room from feeling cluttered.

Was it easy to find a kitchen company?

It actually took a while. We looked at lots of kitchens and even had one designed by another company before James and I popped into a cabinetmaker in the next village. Initially we’d dismissed

them because we thought a bespoke kitchen would be too expensive. However we were delighted to discover that their quote was cheaper than the upmarket designer we approached first.

How did you decide on the style?

James wanted a traditional kitchen and I was keen to have a contemporary one – when we saw this design in the showroom we both loved it. The beautiful grain of solid oak provides a rustic edge to the contemporary design.

The project took a bit longer than expected

Yes, the first sketches were done in December with the view to fitting the kitchen in April. But the extension construction was delayed by wet weather over the winter months so we weren’t ready to receive the kitchen until June. Everything was completed by the end of the month though.

Does the kitchen work well for you?

Very. This is the third kitchen I’ve had designed and as a result I’ve learned what works best for me as a cook. In particular it’s important to have easy access to my pots and pans and I need the knives and utensils in a drawer right next to the Aga.

Is it easy to keep a wooden kitchen clean?

These unit doors are in solid oak but they’ve been treated with a matt varnish so they don’t have to be polished or oiled. All they need is a quick wipe with a damp cloth. We’re delighted with it all.

IN
DETAIL



ARTWORK
Filling the wall space
above the sideboard
is a triptych photo by
Astrid Harrisson



GROWING AREA
A sunken windowsill
behind the sink
is convenient for
plants and herbs

THE NEW LAYOUT

The two-metre-square island in the centre of the room provides additional storage and houses a hob, bin, sink and extra oven



GET THE LOOK



Parma brushed- or
chrome-finish **tap**,
£179, Rangemaster



Fence and Sand Dunes on Coast (H61cm
x W91cm) framed, £84.99, art.co.uk

WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£22,000
Worktops	£6,000
Appliances	£2,659
Extractor fan	£1,950
Sinks and taps	£1,142
Floor tiles	£2,260
Splashback.....	£170
Total	£36,181



Aurelia 1.9L **water jug**,
£35, LSA International

SHOPPING LIST

Walls painted in Sanctuary Retreat emulsion **paint**, £21 for 2.5L, Homebase. Piedra Borgona Arena **floor tiles**, £56.50 a sq metre, Porcelanosa. Triptych **photo** of Longis Beach, Alderney, £1,000, Astrid Harrisson. **Bespoke units**, from £1,100 each; Cosentino Sensa Smoke Black granite **worktop** with leather finish, £500 a linear metre; Shaws of Darwen undermount **sinks**, £260 each; Perrin & Rowe Oberon pewter-finish mixer **taps**, £368 each; all Steven Burgess Fine Furniture. Siemens Domino Touchslider **double induction hob**, £513; Bosch **dishwasher**, £284; AEG integrated **larder fridge**, £356; Miele **microwave oven**, £1,507; all John Lewis. Made-to-measure stainless-steel **splashback**, £170, stainlessdirect.com. Made-to-measure **extractor fan**, £1,950, Westin. 1940s RAF Landing **lights**, £396 each, Skinflint Design 

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

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paris leather three seater sofa £1,499

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INDUSTRIAL CHIC

Inspired by factory lighting, the Utility pendant would be impressive above a table. From £168, David Hunt Lighting



SOMETHING SPECIAL

This dainty copper and glass Lovell pendant, £137.60, Jim Lawrence, would look fantastic in traditional or modern homes



SILVER SPOTLIGHT

Add a touch of relaxed coastal style with the Ottawa pendant lamp in brushed metal. It's great value at £35, Ikea



SLEEK CURVES

Crafted from matt mango wood and powder-coated iron, the Alhambra is beautifully minimalist, £99, Atkin and Thyme

Bright IDEAS

Create a focal point
with a stunning
pendant light



ALL NATURAL

Wooden slats allow the light to filter through the Birchwood Cone lamp, £130, Bear & Bear



ULTRA MODERN

Hang a group of Diamond caged frames together to create an impact, £59.99, Dowsing & Reynolds



UNADORNED BEAUTY

Simplicity at its best – the pared-back Nud rough concrete bulb holder with textile cord, £57, SCP



ICONIC DESIGN

The classic desk lampshade now comes as a pendant. The Original 1227 Brass pendant is £100, Anglepoise

Italia kitchen in Gloss and Woodgrain, from £7,500, Masterclass Kitchens



KITCHEN NOTEBOOK

Best new trends, expert advice and time-saving innovations

Clean lines

How to create a streamlined, contemporary scheme with advice from Gerald Jones, designer at Masterclass kitchens

- ✱ When you're planning a new kitchen, consider how it will be used and draw up a list of all the activities you want to take place in it so the new design can accommodate everything.
- ✱ Handleless or semi-handleless units give a seamless flow so are a good option for smaller kitchens where handles can look too busy. Pale colours make a space feel bigger and high-gloss finishes bounce light around.
- ✱ This sleek look is all about uninterrupted lines, so include built-in appliances and fit worktops in the same or a similar colour to the units.
- ✱ Open-plan kitchens help to maximise floor space and are great for families. Ensure the room is well-ventilated with a good extraction unit to prevent any lingering cooking smells clinging to upholstery.
- ✱ Check the noise output of appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers in open-plan kitchens to ensure they're not too loud.



GOOD IDEA

Multitasking

When worktop space is at a premium, a gadget that combines a stand mixer, food processor, blender, juicer and meat grinder in one is worth investing in. The Kenwood MultiOne, £279.99, includes a large 4.3L mixing bowl with whisk, multi-chopper and dough hook.

3 OF A KIND

The latest dishwashers are water and energy efficient



▲ Perfect for large loads, this fully integrated model holds 16 place settings, features a triple-wash zone system, uses 10L of water and is A+AA energy rated. **BDIF616** (H858mm x W598mm x D550mm), £499, Baumatic



▲ Designed for compact spaces, this freestanding 45cm-wide option has six programmes and holds nine place settings. It uses 9L of water and is energy rated A+AA. **ADPF782IX Slimline** (H845mm x W448mm x D600mm), £373.99, Whirlpool



▲ Freestanding model with LEDs, an intensive zone and adjustable baskets. Holds 14 settings, uses 9.5L water and is A+++ energy rated. **IQ700 SpeedMatic SN278IO1TG** (H845mm x W600mm x D600mm), £999, Siemens

WORDS ANDREA MANLEY

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



The e500 range from Twyford combines streamlined style with hi-spec tech

If you want style and practicality in your bathroom, look no further than Twyford's e500 range. Not only does it have good looks, it also offers a multitude of storage options for hardworking bathrooms.

Now House Beautiful readers could win one of three e500 suites consisting of a tall unit and a two-drawer vanity unit in high-gloss white (pictured) or grey, a 750mm slim-rim washbasin, a wall-hung Rimfree toilet and wall-hung bidet. Each prize is worth £2,000.

The e500 range reflects the latest trend for slimline washbasins that maintain the practical washing depth of a standard 120mm bowl. There's water-saving Flushwise technology in the loo, which is also Rimfree, making it easy to clean.

e500 is part of the Twyford Energy collection, which also includes the super-value e100 and space saving e200 ranges of ceramics and furniture, plus two shower enclosure ranges (es200 and es400).

All Energy sanitaryware comes with a 25-year Twyford guarantee. For more information visit twyfordbathrooms.com.

HouseBeautiful

Twyford

FOR A CHANCE TO WIN text **HBCOMP** followed by a space and then your answer to the question below and your name and address to **87088** (£1.50 plus usual network operator rates) or call **0905 817 2820** (80p a min plus your telephone company's network access charge) and give your answer. Calls should last no longer than two minutes. **LINES CLOSE 30 SEPTEMBER 2015**. Or post completed coupon to House Beautiful/CPHSBN15375, Worksp S80 2RT for receipt before **5 OCTOBER 2015**

QUESTION: What is the depth of a standard washbasin bowl?

ANSWER: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email address _____

Telephone _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS If you phone or text your entry after the advertised closing date, you will not be entered but you will be charged. Prizes supplied by Twyford with no cash alternative; prize does not include installation or removal of old bathroom suite; competition open to UK residents only; prizes subject to availability of stock; the winners will be contacted directly to discuss the prizes and to arrange delivery. Only one entry per household. The winners will be selected at random from all correct entries after the closing date. Service provider: Spoke (0333 202 3390). No purchase is necessary. The prize is not transferable. For full terms and conditions turn to p6. **DATA PROTECTION** We will use the information you supply to process your competition entry. For our privacy policy, visit hearst.co.uk/dp

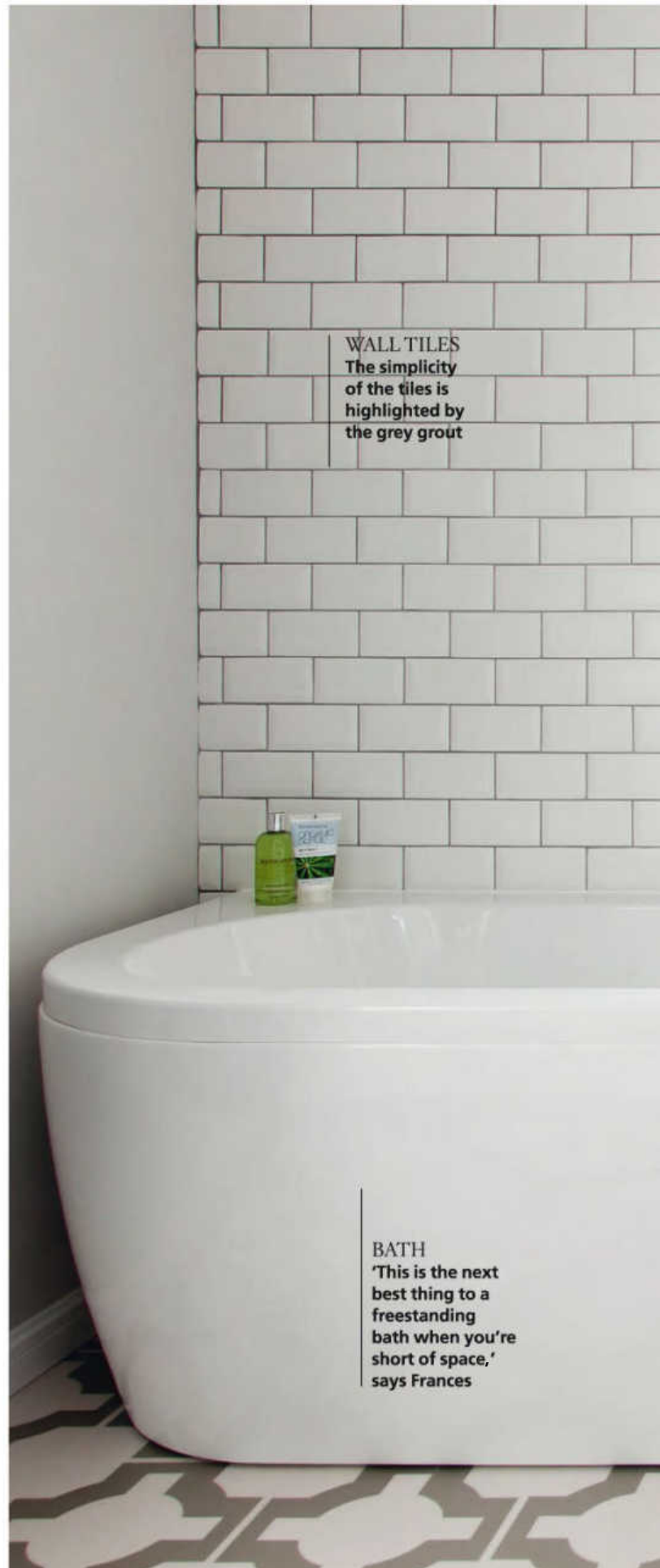


MODERN MIX

A better layout and a more contemporary look were priorities for Frances Smith, 50, and her husband Jim, 53, when they planned their new bathroom.

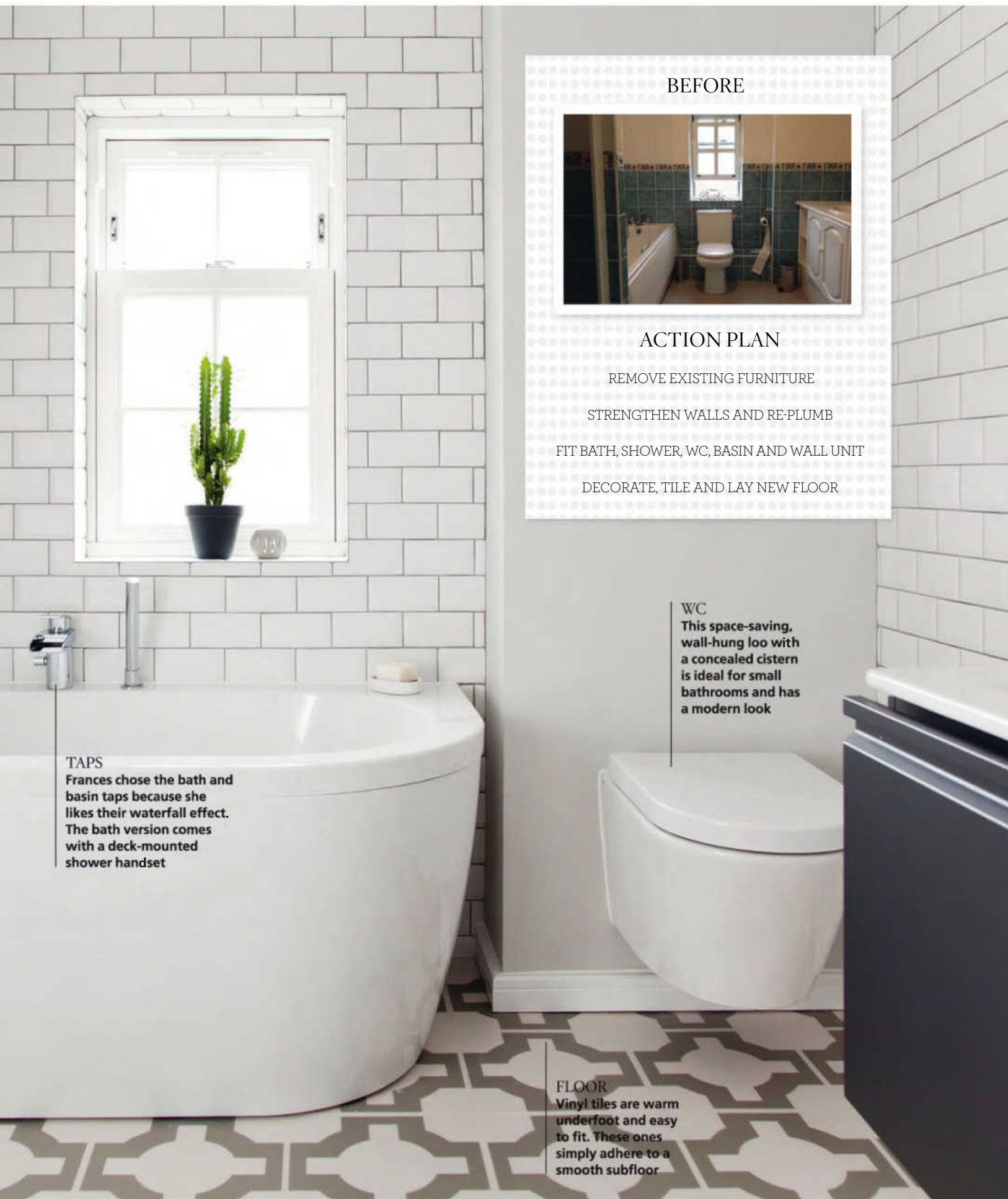
The couple live with their daughter Liberty in a 15-year-old, five-bed detached house in Billingshurst, West Sussex. When the family moved there in 2014, the whole house needed redecorating, and refitting the dated bathroom was near the top of their 'To Do' list.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE



WALL TILES
The simplicity of the tiles is highlighted by the grey grout

BATH
'This is the next best thing to a freestanding bath when you're short of space,' says Frances



BEFORE



ACTION PLAN

REMOVE EXISTING FURNITURE

STRENGTHEN WALLS AND RE-PLUMB

FIT BATH, SHOWER, WC, BASIN AND WALL UNIT

DECORATE, TILE AND LAY NEW FLOOR

TAPS

Frances chose the bath and basin taps because she likes their waterfall effect. The bath version comes with a deck-mounted shower handset

WC

This space-saving, wall-hung loo with a concealed cistern is ideal for small bathrooms and has a modern look

FLOOR

Vinyl tiles are warm underfoot and easy to fit. These ones simply adhere to a smooth subfloor



CUPBOARD
Motion sensor lights and an internal socket are smart options

RADIATOR
This neat radiator is the perfect width for hanging towels

BASIN
A wall-hung unit leaves the floor clear, making the room seem bigger



The frameless enclosure looks modern and is easy to clean

What did you want to achieve with your new bathroom?

A bigger shower and freestanding bath were on the wish list. There wasn't quite enough room for both so I settled for a back-to-the-wall bath that takes up less space but gives a similar look.

The planning took a while?

Yes – we decided that the bath would look better under the window so the loo was moved towards the corner. The space for the cistern was tight because there's a boxed area for a waste pipe that would have to house the cistern too. Luckily, we managed to find a very narrow one that fitted inside. We also discovered that the walls needed to be reinforced behind the basin and radiator to hold their weight.

Did you have any particular inspiration for the look of the room?

The starting point was the floor. I love all the patterned tiled floors that are around at the moment but I wanted something warm underfoot. I was really excited when I came across these vinyl tiles.

Where did you find the products?

Most of them were bought online. I did lots of searches to find what I wanted and get the best prices. I bought things from several different companies without actually seeing them, but it all worked out well.

How did the colour scheme come together?

I love grey – it was just a case of getting the right shades together! I like dark colours in my house but I wanted to keep the room looking light so I chose dark grey cabinets and kept the walls pale.

You've used something unusual on the walls in your shower

It's a solid surface rather like Corian – you buy it with the fitting included in the price. There are no grout lines so it's easy to keep clean.

Who did the work?

Apart from the shower walls, a local builder, James Merriot, did the work and coordinated the trades. It cost £4,600 and took three weeks.

Are you happy with the results?

I absolutely love everything. I spent a lot of time thinking about every aspect and it's paid off as there isn't one thing I'd change.



THE NEW LAYOUT

To allow the bath to fit under the window, the WC was moved to the corner



GET THE LOOK



Vienne Silver **hand towel**, £10, Fable



Umora Avocado Penguin **soap pump**, £15, Amara

WHAT IT COST

Paint	£42
Wall tiles	£121
Floor tiles	£249
Bath	£830
Bath and basin taps	£315
Storage units	£1,966
WC	£817
Shower	£3,611
Total	£7,951



Amore side lever single basin **mixer tap**, £112, Just Taps Plus

SHOPPING LIST

Walls painted in French Grey Intelligent matt **emulsion**, £41.50 for 2.5L, Little Greene. Stone Parquet vinyl **floor tiles**, £49.89 for 1.115 sq metres, Harvey Maria. Chalk Farm matt **wall tiles**, £13.45 a sq metre, Walls and Floors. Solid surface **shower wall** in Hydra White, £385 a sq metre, Granite Transformations. Ludlow **bath**, £830; Rhyme mono bath **shower mixer**, £205; Rhyme mono **basin mixer**, £110; Triple concealed thermostatic **shower valve**, £331; A3239 **fixed head and arm**, £185; A3264 **square outlet elbow** with bracket and handset, £73.50; Piazza **radiator**, £425; **radiator valves**, £45.85; all Hudson Reed. Pro-S one-drawer **vanity unit** and **basin** in Graphite, £776.46; Pro-S tall **cabinet**, £690; both Laufen. 550 **mirror cabinet**, £499, Bauhaus. Decem DXR8 800 **shower side panel**, DXL9CA 900 **door panel**, RLT108 900mm x 800mm **shower tray**; all £1,450, Roman. Arco wall-hung **loo**, £428, Pura Bathrooms. Geberit Duofix 1120 **toilet frame** with 12cm cistern, £330; Sigma 01 **flush plate**, £59; both Geberit. **Soap**, £8; Sheridan **dark grey towel**, £8; both Debenhams **HB**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

**IN THE FOLD**

This linear and neat choice comes in many options including a bi-fold door. Mira Leap shower enclosures, from £300

**SPACE-SAVER**

Roman's Lumin8 quadrant shower is shaped to use minimal wall space and provide maximum floor space, from £984.49

**BARE MINIMUM**

The Lily frameless panel shower screen, from £895, Fired Earth, is the ultimate in minimal shower style

**ON EDGE**

Choose from different door types, sizes and black framing for a stylish look. 8 Series in Matt Black, £1,683.60, Merlyn Showering

Water
LINES
Chic and simple shower enclosures work hard while looking understated

**MADE TO FIT**

The SSI Glass Design range from CP Hart can be designed and specified to suit almost any size and space, from £1,266

**SLIDING DOORS**

Smooth gliding doors make for an effortless and elegant option. Glasshouse 1200 slider, £999, Bathstore

**DOUBLE ASPECT**

Open either door on this easy-access shower enclosure with 6mm toughened glass, £619, Simpsons

**CLEARLY SIMPLE**

This wet-room panel in 8mm glass has minimal framing and chrome-plated details. From £559.20, Matki



Integrating seamlessly into your bathroom's design, the Geberit AquaClean Sela offers all the advantages of cleaning with water



FEEL CLEAN

Opting for the innovative Geberit AquaClean Sela rather than your standard WC will leave you feeling clean and refreshed. Here's why...

New technology isn't just about having the latest laptop or mobile phone. There's a revolution in the bathroom too with the state-of-the-art Geberit AquaClean Sela shower toilet, which blends unobtrusively into the room. The warm water spray leaves you with a fabulous clean sensation that is wonderfully hygienic.

Simple to operate, via the buttons on the side of the toilet or the remote control, the Geberit AquaClean Sela shower toilet cleans with a gentle, adjustable, airy water spray at body temperature – while an oscillating motion ensures a pleasant experience.

* How the Geberit AquaClean Sela works

At the touch of a button, a concealed spray arm extends from the back of the loo, washing you with a jet of warm water and leaving you with a feeling of absolute cleanliness. Result: You'll get all the benefits of a standard shower where you need it most.

* Futureproof your bathroom

We all love that shower-fresh feeling and as parents we encourage our family to appreciate and practice cleanliness. The Geberit AquaClean Sela offers easy-to-use, state-of-the-art, intelligent functionality to maximise personal hygiene for all the family – from tots to grown-ups.

Geberit has been developing and producing shower toilets since the end of the 1970s. To find out more about the Geberit AquaClean Sela shower toilet visit geberit-aquaclean.co.uk

■ GEBERIT



BATHROOM NOTEBOOK

New ideas and expert advice to refresh the look of your room

Slant Oak wall-hung WC unit and cistern, £349; 500mm wall-hung unit and basin, £559; mirror, £179; tall wall-hung unit, £509; all Bathstore

Modular makeover

Wall-hung furniture is practical, space saving and stylish, as Phil Allen, product designer at Bathstore, explains

- * Whether you want to conserve precious floor space or simply enjoy a more streamlined look, wall-hung furniture makes the room look bigger.
- * Maximise your storage options by combining tall units, vanity storage and even built-in compartments in the WC unit.
- * Classic oak with a water-resistant finish creates a timeless look. Woods that have a defined grain pattern are a key trend.
- * Look for clever design details such as motion-sensitive LED lights, push-open drawers and doors, or hidden storage compartments.
- * Bathstore's Slant mirror features an adjustable tilting mechanism which makes it easy for everyone to use.
- * Use large-format floor and wall tiles for a seamless finish.
- * A chandelier adds glamour to an angular scheme. Choose one that's specially designed for moist and humid conditions and IP44 rated.



LATEST TREND

Make a splash

One-piece pedestal basins are like a piece of bathroom sculpture and the new Irvetta rectangular pedestal (H830mm x W500mm x D370mm), £840, from Indigenous, creates a luxurious look. The stone resin is stain resistant and warm to the touch.

3 OF A KIND

Wall panels are a sleek, contemporary alternative to tiles



▲ A handprinted glass splashback or shower panel will add the wow factor to an all-white scheme. This made-to-measure, toughened glass geometric design is inspired by Nottinghamshire lace patterns. **White Geo in Maple, £700 a sq metre, Emma Britton Designs**

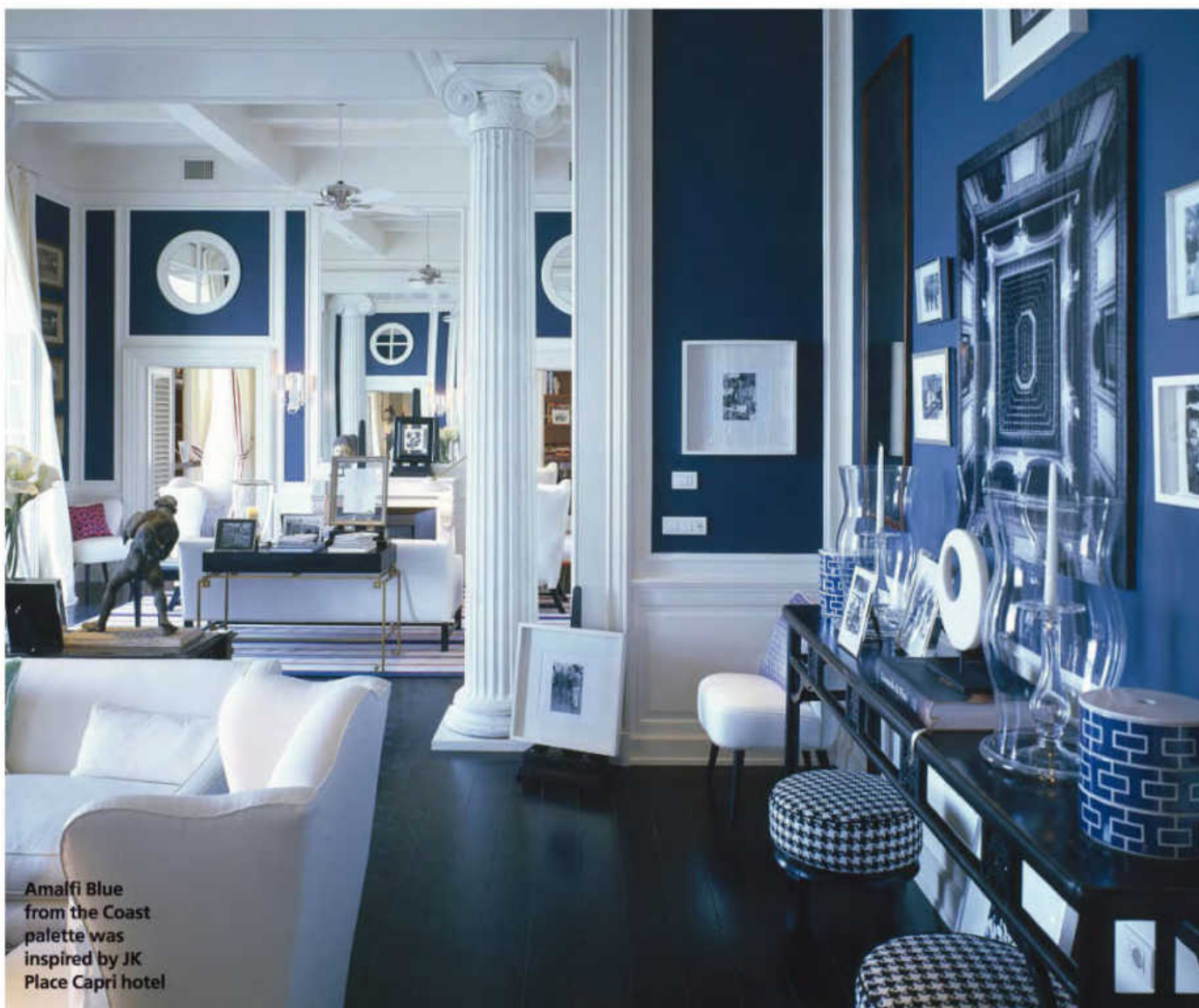


▲ Lightweight and easy to install, this aluminium and acrylic wall panel boasts a realistic 3D stone appearance. It can be used in a wet room, shower cubicle or around the exterior of a bath. **HSK shower panel in Dark Stone (H2550mm x W900mm x D3mm), £295, Frontline Bathrooms**



▲ For a cost-effective, on-trend marble look, consider a seamless laminated panel. The high-performance board will not swell or degrade. Panels can be used at full or half height and have no grout lines. **Nuance Calacatta marble panel, from £70 a sq metre, Bushboard**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



Amalfi Blue
from the Coast
palette was
inspired by JK
Place Capri hotel

ENJOY 20% OFF new designer paints

Transform your home with stunning paint shades

Best-known for its hand-picked selection of boutique and luxury hotels around the world, Mr & Mrs Smith has ventured into interiors with a range of 28 specially chosen paint shades. Designed to bring the light and feel of gorgeous locations into your home, the colours have been collated into three easy-to-combine palettes called Coast, City and Country. Each palette of shades is designed to work together, giving you the confidence to be able to create beautiful colour schemes.

With an innovative twist, instead of sample pots, this range uses iPatch: flexible A4 swatches with real paint on one side and low-tack adhesive on the back. The sheets can be attached and re-attached to interior walls without leaving a residue, or taken away to be matched against fabrics and furnishings. This exclusive reader discount means you'll save 20 per cent on the Mr & Mrs Smith At Home paint range.

HouseBeautiful



colour & paint

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS This discount offer applies to paint tins only. The offer is valid on orders placed from 31 July 2015 until 1 October 2015. There is no cash alternative in whole or in part. The discount cannot be used with any other promotional offer, and cannot be redeemed against delivery charges or iPatches. Offer valid in the UK only.



SMART LIVING

The latest in clever home technology and the most stylish gadgets around

For work and play

From desktop computers, to laptops and tablets – Will Jones, head of buying communication technology at John Lewis, selects the latest designs to suit you and your home

* DESKTOP

Great for small spaces The HP Pavilion Mini desktop PC, £499.95, fits in the palm of your hand. This powerful device with a 1TB hard drive links to any screen including your TV, which you can turn into a home PC.

Ideal for families The iconic Apple iMac MF885B/A all-in-one desktop computer, £1,599, is a real thing of beauty. It has a crystal-clear Retina 5K display that is seven times the resolution of a standard HD display. Powered by a fast Quad Core Intel processor, equipped with a 2GB graphics card, a FaceTime HD camera and with 1TB of storage, it offers more than enough to satisfy everyone in the household.

* LAPTOP

Instant internet access Toshiba's CB30-B-104 Chromebook is reasonably priced at £269.95 and is driven by Google's operating system and designed to work with Cloud storage in mind. It gives you access to the internet as soon as you switch it on and different family members can log in using their Gmail accounts and personalise the screen with files, data and settings to suit their needs.

Highly portable The 12in Apple MacBook with 256GB of flash storage – meaning it's great at keeping data – costs £1,049 and comes with nine hours of battery life. It's impressively thin at 13.1mm and lightweight at 1kg so can be easily transported from your home to the coffee shop.

* TABLET

Flexible design Microsoft's latest device, the Surface 3, is a powerful tablet that, with the optional keyboard, becomes a powerful laptop too. Priced £419, it has a built-in kick stand, which means it's easy to view. It also comes with a stylus, keyboard and one year's Office 365 subscription.

Impressive battery life The Tab A with S Pen is Samsung's latest tablet, £259.95. It runs Google's Android operating system, has a 9.7in screen and the battery allows for up to 15 hours of online browsing.



LATEST TREND

Sparkling water on tap

You can now find an array of companies offering filtered sparkling water from stylish hi-tech, easy-to-access taps. The Grohe Blue is a sleek system with LED display that offers still, semi-sparkling and fully sparkling filtered water instantly. Grohe Blue Configurator, £2,013, grohe.com/uk

3 OF A KIND

Projectors for movies, games and photo sharing at home



▲ Turn any wall into a useful touchscreen smart TV with the Touchjet Pond projector and interact directly with photos, apps, presentations and videos. The palm-sized device projects an 80in screen and lets you download apps via Google Play.
£599.99, touchjet.eu



▲ The lightweight and easily portable Dell M115HD mini projector will transform any flat surface into a colourful and bright screen of up to 80in. It comes with a cable so you can connect it to your PC or stream content wirelessly from your phone or tablet.
£418, dell.co.uk



▲ Sony's VPL-VW300ES Home Cinema projector gives you cinematic 4K picture quality, which is four times the quality of Full HD, as the high price tag reflects. It has 1,500 lumens brightness, meaning that even in a well-lit room, the picture will be great quality.
£5,496, sony.co.uk

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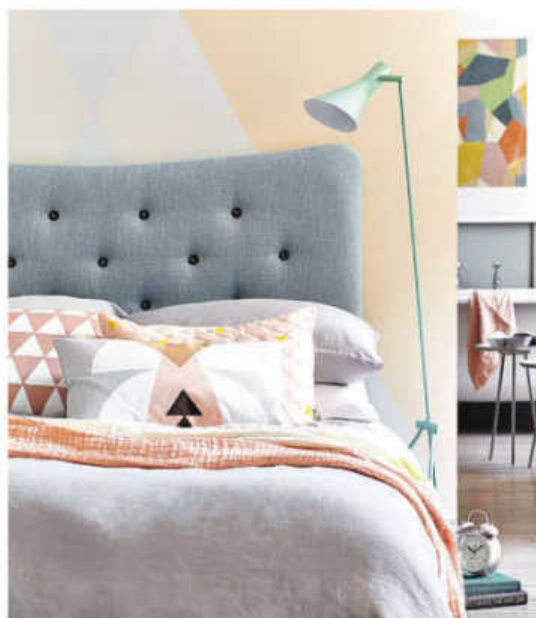
Declutter

Find a place for everything with streamlined storage ideas



Dream homes

Enjoy real-life stories and see how others have transformed their living spaces to create stylish and practical homes



Decorate

Be inspired by stunning schemes – and learn the tricks of the trade with our panel of experts

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Stylish inspiration, expert advice, clever ideas

BRUSHSTROKES OF COLOUR

EXCLUSIVE
20% OFF
our new
bluebellgray
collection

New! Update your home with gorgeous designer cushions from House Beautiful at bluebellgray



Stylisse The Cut-Outs

STYLING KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES
PHOTOGRAPHY RACHEL WHITING FOR
STORE DETAILS SEE WHERE TO BUY PAGE

Cushions (l-r): Portree Beaumont Pom-pom (45cm x 45cm), £92; Elie Saffrono (61cm x 45cm), £48; Portree Quay Tassel (61cm x 45cm), £110; Portree Coolin (50cm x 30cm), £65; Elie Zespri (50cm x 30cm), £45; all bluebellgray for House Beautiful. Berlin sofa,

£995, Loaf. Lycia rug, from £900, bluebellgray. Throw, £60, John Lewis. Ercol Originals coffee table, from £500, Heal's. Pod vase, £35, Oliver Bonas. Ercol Svelto lamp table, £415, Barker & Stonehouse. Glass, £12.50, Holly's House. Books, Anthropologie

House Beautiful has teamed up with Fiona Douglas of bluebellgray to create Portree, an exclusive collection of cushions and soft furnishings. Fiona was inspired by the rainbow of coloured terraced houses that line the water's edge in Portree on the Isle of Skye, to design this abstract painterly print. Made with a top quality linen front and filled with feather pads, the cushions come in five sizes. Also in the range are scatter cushions in three solid colours that complement the design – zesty Elie Saffrono, chartreuse Elie Zespri and grey Elie Clay. Find out more by visiting housebeautiful.co.uk/bluebellgray. To see the whole Portree collection and claim your 20% discount (UK only), visit bluebellgray.com and enter Portree20 at checkout, or call 0141 221 0724 and quote Portree20. Offer closes 31 August 2015. See bluebellgray.com for t&cs

bluebellgray

ASK THE EXPERTS

Email house.beautiful@hearst.co.uk or post your queries on our wall at facebook.com/housebeautifuluk

MEET THE PANEL



ECO DESIGNER
Oliver Heath
TV presenter and expert in sustainable design from interiors to products



CLEANING EXPERT
Helen Harrison
Home economist and former member of the Good Housekeeping Institute



GARDENING
Caroline Tilston
Designer at Oak Studio Garden Design and writer of gardening books

● We also answer questions on property law, mortgages, consumer issues, architecture and more. Send your questions to House Beautiful, 72 Broadwick Street, London W1F 9EP, or email us at house.beautiful@hearst.co.uk. Visit housebeautiful.co.uk/asktheexperts for more advice



Creating a grand entrance

We've worked hard to make the front of our house look really lovely, but our hallway is pretty boring. Which would be the best colours to use here to bring it alive and make it look welcoming?

OLIVER HEATH SAYS

Hallways are both a creative and functional design opportunity. Obviously they need to work well when members of the family are all trying to get out of the door in the mornings. You need to plan spaces for coats, keys, umbrellas and shoes so they are easily available and also tidily stored away.

But beyond that hallways need to be welcoming spaces that reflect the character and culture of your family. They do, after all, deliver that all-important first impression for guests and visitors to your home.

A great place to start, as with all projects, is to collect images of similar spaces that you like – I use digital sites such as Pinterest – and that helps me to define concepts, plus the look and feel of the space.

You can afford to add colour and energy to your hall walls as they're dynamic spaces that connect many different rooms of your home. This can be implemented through one of two options: you can either directly add colour with paint, wallpaper or vinyl transfers, or you can go for a neutral background and add a layering of colour and texture through images such as photographs, artwork or digitally printed wall images.

As colour is such a personal decision, the best advice I can offer is to suggest that you explore ideas of what you want guests' first impression to be when they enter your home, and then to find ways to create that look.

Beautiful autumn beds

In the spring we had raised beds built and the flowers we planted in them have looked gorgeous all summer. Now autumn's coming we need advice about what we can plant that will look good until spring comes around.

CAROLINE TILSTON SAYS

If you can see your flower beds throughout the year it's really important to have something there for all seasons. January through to spring can be dealt with by spring bulbs and the good news is that now is the perfect time to plant them.

There's a lovely recipe for a non-stop show of colour that starts with irises and crocuses in January and February followed by daffodils in March. Add in plenty of tulips for April and don't forget alliums, which are good for May, until the summer planting really gets going.

For the next few months, while waiting for the bulbs to come up, I'd go for autumn and winter flowering plants such as *Camellia sasanqua* and hellebores. You can plant these in containers, as well as in the raised beds, to give an even bigger show, and then remove them after Christmas so they don't take up precious room through the spring and summer.

One other thing I'd suggest, if you don't mind a bit of formality, is to try surrounding the beds with low box hedges and maybe put a central box ball in each one. These will be like a vase holding the flowers in place and will give structure and a sense of continuity to the scene throughout the year.



Hellebores bring colour to raised beds in autumn



A mild solution of water and washing-up liquid will keep doors looking good

Clean doors

We installed new wooden internal doors and then waxed them. They're now dirty, especially around the handle areas. What's the best way to clean them?

HELEN HARRISON SAYS

Wax provides a lovely, durable finish to wood and is great for repelling dirt, but areas of high usage, such as around door handles, will eventually start to show signs of wear and tear.

Most cleaning products are too acidic to use safely on waxed wood, so for lighter marks, use a cloth dipped in a very mild solution of water and washing-up liquid, then wrung out until just slightly damp. Rub gently to remove the marks, then buff dry with a second clean, dry cloth.

For wood that is more heavily stained, using cloth dipped in white spirits is the way to go, or for particularly stubborn grime try using finest grade wire wool, also dipped

in spirits. This will dissolve the dirt and you'll easily be able to wipe it off.

However, the spirits will also dissolve the wax finish, so you'll need to re-coat the affected area afterwards by simply rubbing a thin layer of wax over it following the grain of the wood. Finish off by buffing the door with a dry cloth to allow the newly cleaned area to blend in with the rest of the wood and restore the shine.

All waxed wood will benefit from being given an occasional all-over re-wax – do it once a year or when you can no longer buff the waxed finish to a shine when cleaning it.

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MAKE + MEND

Brush up your skills and gain confidence with our DIY expert Jo Behari

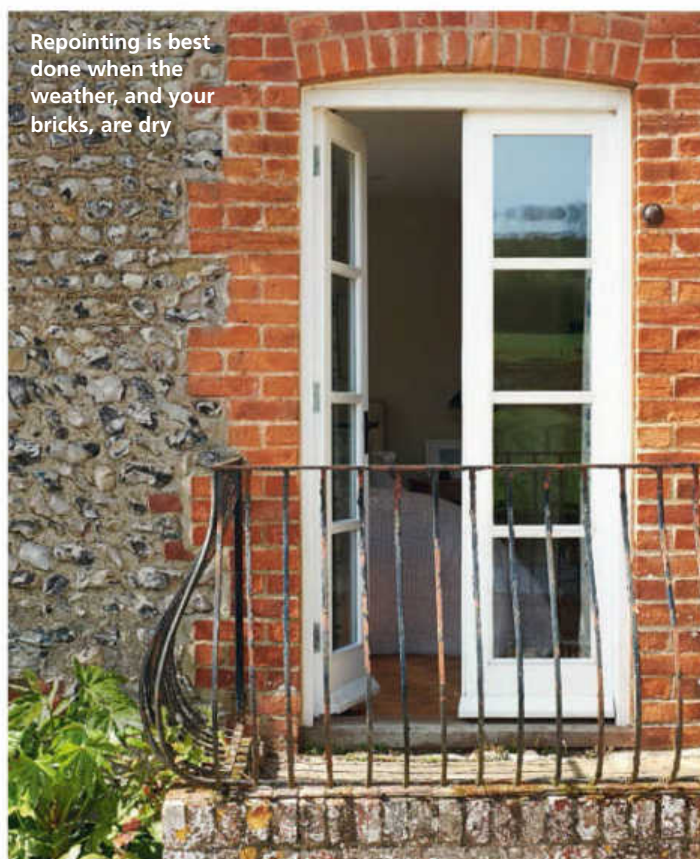
ABOUT JO



DIY EXPERT

Jo Behari

Founder of Home Jane, the UK's first home improvement company with an all-female workforce



Repointing brickwork

I've noticed a small area around my window where the mortar seems to have come out. How easy is it to repoint?

Pointing is the mortar between your bricks. It can crumble and become loose over time and when this happens water can trickle into the bricks and cause damp in your walls. If you have large areas of pointing that need repairing it's worth hiring a professional to do this, but for smaller areas it's something you can easily fix yourself.

It's best to do this job when both the weather and the bricks are dry, and you'll need to invest in some tools. Take out the old mortar using a mortar rack and a cold chisel for the hard areas.

Then mix the mortar as per the instructions on the packet, but make sure it's not too sloppy as you don't want it splashing

everywhere and staining the bricks. Wet the bricks slightly using a water spray bottle to ensure the mortar sticks well.

Apply the mortar to the vertical joints first and then the bed (horizontal) joints. The mortar needs to have a smooth recess to allow the water to run off.

There are many different ways to smooth the mortar but this can be difficult to get to grips with, which is why bricklaying is often referred to as an art. What's important when you are doing small patch jobs is that they're smooth and even, so when the mortar has gone slightly hard, brush over it with a soft-bristled brush to get rid of any excess.

Clearing guttering

Our guttering gets full of leaves at this time of year. How can we clean it?

To keep guttering working properly it's vital to clear it out before the leaves start to fall. You can invest in a hose attachment that means you can do this job from the ground if you hate heights, but it really is one of those jobs that's easier to see up close and personal.

When working on a ladder, always have someone with you who can hold it steady and pass you equipment. You'll need a sturdy pair of gloves, a green waste sack, a bucket and a hard-bristled brush. The first thing to do is to tie or hook your waste bag to your ladder so you don't have to hold it while working. Then, having



scooped out the leaves and debris from the guttering, use the brush to scrub along the gutter to remove any stubborn bits.

Once you've cleared the entire gutter of leaves you can then start flushing it through with water. It's easiest to do this with a hose. You can use a watering can if you don't have a long enough hose but this can be really laborious. It's also a good idea to check the guttering for any cracks and loose joints while you're up there. **HB**

● Find more tips in Jo's book, *The Girl's Guide to DIY* (£12.99, New Holland Publishers)



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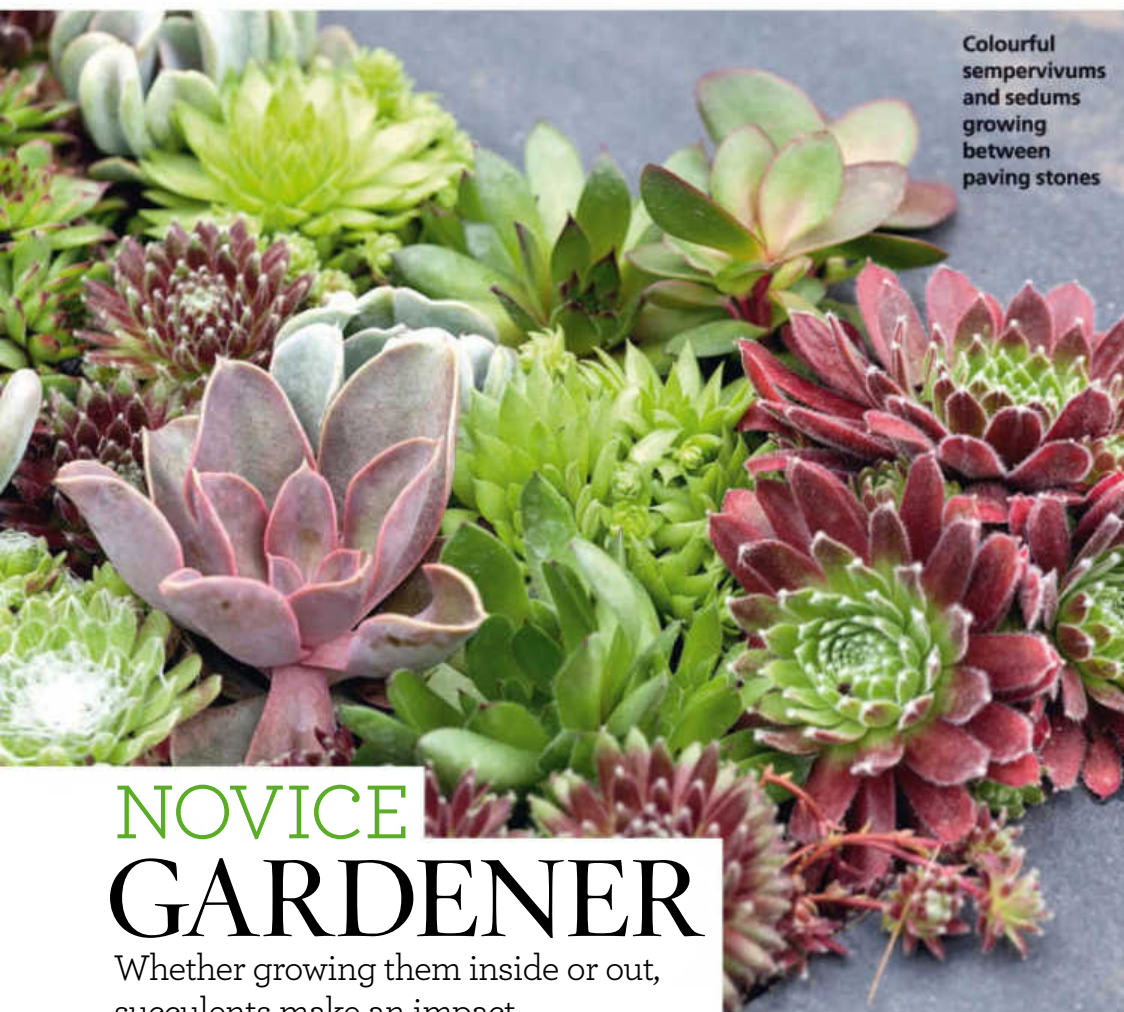


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NOVICE GARDENER

Whether growing them inside or out, succulents make an impact

The best way to think of succulents is as 'fat plants'. Parts of them, usually their leaves, swell up with water and this stops them from drying out in arid conditions.

Cacti are the most obvious examples of succulents, but sedums and sempervivums are also common. They all share that fleshy, tender look and often have grey-green leaves, though there are plenty of others with leaves in colours that range from black and red through to yellow.

Because they come from hot, dry places they tend not to be hardy, so if left outdoors over winter they're likely to be killed off by frost.

* GROWING INDOORS

Succulents make fantastic houseplants. They like dry air – so are perfect for our centrally heated homes – and don't need to be watered very often. They require lots of light, however, so place them near or on a windowsill and make sure their roots are very well drained.

My favourite indoor succulents are at each end of the size scale; tiny rosettes of sempervivums and statuesque rubber plants. For a really lovely display try gathering different coloured but similar-sized, rosette-forming sempervivums together in a shallow white bowl.

A good place to start is with echeverias; maybe mixing red-pink *Echeveria agavoides* 'Lipstick' with grey and purple *Echeveria agavoides* 'Vashon'.

If you have more space try rubber plants. They also need light so make sure they're somewhere near a window and, if you can, have more than one in a room. Two look good, on either side of a window, or a line of three or more can make architectural shapes along a wall.

* GOOD CARE

Place these houseplants outside in summer, as long as there's no danger of frost, so they can get some fresh air. In winter the biggest danger to succulents is too much water, so make

sure the containers are really well drained to avoid the roots sitting in water. If you do have a disaster and the plant looks as though it's dead, don't write it off straightaway. Succulents have the capacity to rise again, so give the plant some tender, loving care and wait at least four weeks to see if it revives.

* THE OUTDOOR TYPE

Hardy sempervivums and sedums, many of which will survive unprotected in frosts, are the most common succulents for planting outdoors, but do check the label.

As with the indoor variety, the best sempervivums have interesting varieties of tight rosettes. *Sempervivum calcareum* has grey-green rosettes with lovely contrasting red tips, and *Sempervivum* 'Moerkerk's Merit' is silvery-green with a soft velvet sheen.

Sedums are small- to medium-sized evergreen perennials, which are perfect for the front of the border and

look amazing when planted en masse across a whole bed. My favourites are the grey-purple combinations you get with *Sedum* 'Ruby Glow' or the tiny groundcover stonecrop *Sedum cauticola*.

* CARING FOR HARDY SUCCULENTS

These outdoor plants really look after themselves. In the spring cut back any dead or damaged stems or leaves right down to the base, but otherwise they're very low maintenance.

* THE TENDER TRAP

If you don't mind spending some time looking after them, tender succulents can look amazing outdoors.

The plant that every garden designer loves is *Aeonium* 'Zwartkop', which has almost pure black rosettes of leaves on the ends of strong stalks. This purpley-black mixes beautifully with so many other colours – such as the lime green leaves and flowers of euphorbia or grasses, or the pink flowers of *Lychnis coronaria* – creating a dramatic, exciting look.

Other amazing succulents are agaves. Exotic and impressive, they have spears of fleshy leaves coming from a central point.

Two favourites are the smaller grey-leaved ones such as *Agave parrasana* or *Agave parryi*, which look great individually planted in terracotta pots and displayed in a regimented line. Alternatively, if you have space, try the *Agave americana*, which has huge grey-green spears that form the perfect centrepiece in a more jungle-style garden.

* CARING FOR TENDER SUCCULENTS OUTDOORS

The main thing about tender plants is that they need protection during winter. If they're kept in pots they should be brought inside into a greenhouse or a sunny place in the house. If the pots can't be moved or the plants are in the ground, it's best to wrap their tops with bubblewrap to keep the frost off and to create an umbrella to shield the base of the plants and the roots from the worst of the rain. **HB**

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A grass path separates two herbaceous borders bursting with late summer colour, including *Verbena bonariensis*, salvias, asters, dahlias and cosmos, and edged with nepeta



A lush garden scene featuring a green lawn in the foreground, a dense border of purple flowers, and a wooden trellis structure in the background. The garden is filled with various plants, including tall purple flowers and a large bush of pink flowers. The overall atmosphere is vibrant and colorful.

The late SHOW

Summer may be over, but colour is still
rich and vibrant in this Essex garden

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY NICOLA STOCKEN

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Borders in front of the summerhouse are planted with clumps of purple *Aster x Frikartii* 'Mönch' and *Calamagrostis* grass



Linda at work in the garden

A garden as thoughtfully laid out as Woodpeckers suggests a masterplan, but in fact the owners' approach was not so structured. 'We simply looked out of each window and imagined what view we'd like to see. After designing the area around the house, we progressed outwards,' says Linda Holdaway, 65, who shares the work in this garden in Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, with husband Neil, also 65. 'We first saw the house 24 years ago; the garden had scorched lawns and grassed-over borders, but there were wonderful mature trees,' recalls Linda. Since then it's blossomed, making the most of every season, as Linda explains...

ROOMS WITH VIEWS

Other gardeners often say how marvellous it must be to start with a blank canvas, but actually it can be daunting. Having given up our small townhouse for a home in the country with nearly an acre of garden and orchard, we didn't know where to start. A gardening friend suggested that I first create something worth looking out on, and then add a path that leads somewhere worth walking to. After that she advised never to bite off more than you can cope with.

I started by looking out of my kitchen window onto an empty plot, imagining the possibilities. That area is south-facing, so we laid a wide, curving path leading to a summerhouse. On either side of the path I established borders of plants to provide interest each



Raised beds are planted with vegetables and herbs, which grow alongside dahlias, box balls and chrysanthemums

month. There are snowdrops and hellebores for winter and tulips for spring, followed by heucheras, cleomes, sedums, dahlias, asters, grasses and *Verbena bonariensis*. Self-seeding plants are useful as I have a lot of space to fill and they pop up everywhere.

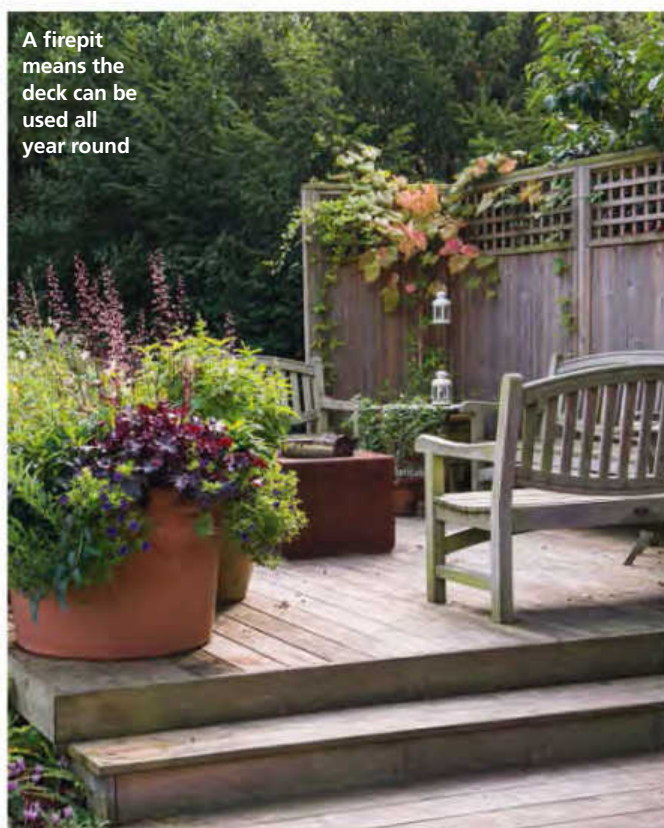
One example is the self-seeding fleabane, which creates a froth of tiny daisies over the stone paving on a small terrace outside the sitting room. I briefly had a gardener who mistook it for a weed and sprayed it with weedkiller – luckily it's tough and eventually recovered. It now spills over into a small gravel garden that's planted with box balls, aquilegias, purple sage and *Alchemilla mollis*, which forms pretty clumps in the gravel beside pots of *Stipa tenuissima*. A simple path, made from paving slabs laid in gravel, leads to a raised deck with benches and a firepit – creating another lovely view from the house.

FORMAL DESIGN

From our sitting room on the west side of the house, we can see a box parterre, a formal design made from low box hedges. Originally there was a scruffy lawn there that never looked good, so about 10 years ago we marked out the design on the grass with bits of string, bamboo canes and emulsion paint! We planted tiny box bushes to form the 'walls' of the parterre and they've grown quickly. We trim the box in early June and again later in summer.

On the other side of the garden is another formal arrangement, a potager made of four square raised beds separated by paved paths. It sits behind dense, sheltering hedges that keep out strong, drying winds and create a micro-climate where the plants can thrive. Here I can grow late cutting flowers – chrysanthemums, dahlias and zinnias – mixed in with leeks, runner

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A firepit means the deck can be used all year round



The shepherd's hut has four bunks, one for each of Linda's grandchildren

Creating an early autumn garden

✱ For weeks of flowers, grow *Aster x frikartii* 'Mönch', a mildew-resistant aster adored by bees and butterflies. It doesn't have to be staked or deadheaded, and needs to be divided only once every four years.

✱ Mulch deeply with compost to suppress weeds and retain moisture.

✱ In late May, give herbaceous perennials the 'Chelsea Chop', a pruning method that reduces height by between a third and a half to delay flowering, increase flowers and make the plant more sturdy.

✱ Stake taller plants – you can never stake too early or too much; use natural hazel sticks so they're barely visible once plants mature.

✱ To achieve maximum impact, reduce the number of varieties you grow, planting in bold clumps of seven or nine plants.

✱ Dahlias are the mainstay of the late garden, so if you don't have enough space to



Dahlia 'Happy Halloween'



Sedum 'Autumn Joy'

store them over winter, leave them in the ground, marking their position, and thoroughly mulch to protect from winter's cold.

✱ Deadhead regularly to prolong flowering.

✱ Leave seedheads on ornamental grasses to add structure and provide seeds for goldfinches.

beans, peas, squashes and herbs. My 88-year-old mother grows all the vegetables from seed in the greenhouse and does all the propagating. She keeps me in young plants all summer long.

PAINTING WITH PLANTS

I love colour but can't paint, so using it in my garden is as close as I get. Beside the potager are twin herbaceous borders that peak in early autumn with repeated clumps of sedum, Japanese anemones, salvias, cosmos and asters, all edged in catmint, which draws the bees.

Living in an area of Essex noted for its low rainfall dictates what I grow. The year starts with bulbs in May, then summer is dominated by drought-resistant grey-leaved plants and undemanding self-seeders such as gaura, fleabane, valerian and sedums that cope in soil that's still poor, sandy and free-draining in spite of regular doses of Neil's homemade compost. By August the lawns are often baked yellow but, once the rain returns, the grass revives and then the borders really come into their own, making a wonderful extension to the summer flower displays. We're home to a huge variety of birds, bees and butterflies drawn by many pollen-rich plants such as buddleja, poached egg plant, coneflowers and catmint, among others.

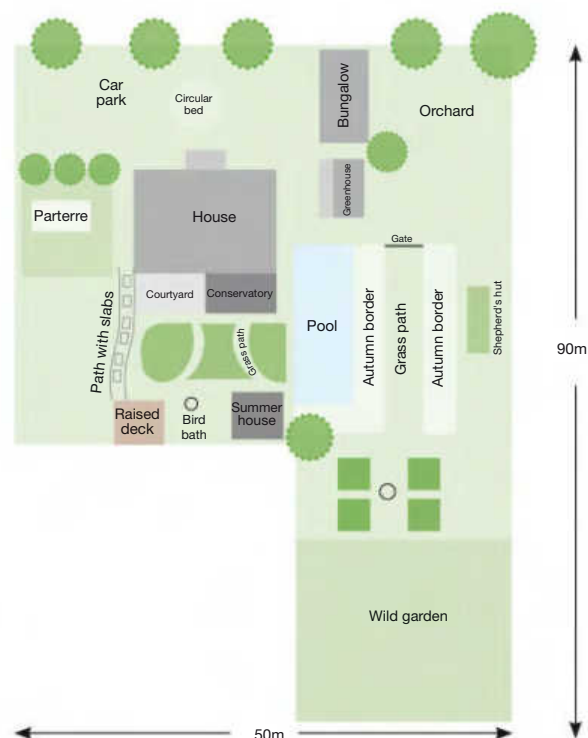
Although this garden takes a lot of hard work, when the lawns are cut, edges trimmed, weeds blitzed and hedges immaculate, you realise how worthwhile it is. On a warm day when the bees are buzzing and nothing needs doing, there's nowhere I'd rather be. **HB**

● **Woodpeckers opens in aid of the National Gardens Scheme every Saturday in September (12-5pm), ngs.org.uk**

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The layout

Garden views can be enjoyed from all sides of the house



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'I've downsized and now have the perfect home'

Discovering the right property to downshift to isn't easy. Writer Liz Hodgkinson explains how she found her dream 'last-time buy'

PHOTOGRAPHY BILL KINGSTON



There were two reasons for selling my London house in 2004. One was that my son Will had asked if I could help him onto the property ladder and the only way of raising the £50,000 needed was to sell the family home. The other, more urgent reason was that, quite honestly, I no longer felt safe in it.

I'd been living there alone since my partner died and it had become a magnet for all the tramps, drunks and undesirables who prowled round that part of town. My car had been broken into twice, and my next-door neighbour, also a single woman, had been burgled.

It seemed time to say goodbye, to let go. In truth, it wasn't our original family house; it had been bought after my divorce many years previously, but had a strong and cosy family vibe. My sons were fond of it and regarded it as home long after they'd moved out.

But where should I move and to what sort of property? As a single woman of 60, it seemed sensible to relocate to a flat where I could feel secure, rather than another house. But I definitely didn't want to move to a retirement ghetto – I felt far too young!

I knew I needed a place where my grandchildren could come to stay and where I could store my vast writing archive. My first job was to draw up a blueprint: three bedrooms (at least), two bathrooms, an eat-in kitchen (absolutely essential), space for my 3,000 or more books, a study or office, plenty of storage, and absolutely no garden. I didn't mind a place that needed some work, but lacked the energy to take on a complete wreck.

My maximum budget would be £500,000 and I soon discovered that excluded anything in a decent part of London. But even at twice the price, 'my' flat didn't even seem to exist. I drew a blank everywhere and started to look further afield.

Oxford came into the frame after I attended a talk one evening in the Town Hall. It felt right, and I gave my wishlist to several local estate agents. Meanwhile, I put my house on the market. It sold immediately for the full asking price of £650,000, before the ink was even dry on the particulars. My buyer, although a rich man, was homeless after a bitter divorce and needed somewhere fast. The only proviso was that I had to move out in a month.

Nothing suitable was coming up in Oxford, so I moved into a holiday flat and put my archive and books into storage. I gave my buyer all my furniture, even down to saucepans and cutlery. I didn't want to pay for storage of a complete houseful but also felt a totally new start was called for. It was a bit of a wrench to leave the huge old pine table on which the children had done their homework and where we'd had many memorable meals and Christmases, plus discussions, arguments and quarrels. It was a potent reminder of a family life now lost but, once I shut the door on the house for the last time, I never thought about that table again, and continued the hunt for my perfect flat.

It was looking impossible. Then one day I was having a welcome rest in Oxford after yet another fruitless search when my phone went. It was one of the local estate agents who sounded excited. 'I think I've found your flat,' he said. 'Well, I'm in Oxford now,' I told him. 'Can I come and view it?'

I went, and made an offer on the spot. It was exactly what I'd been looking for, but never hoped to find. The price was just within my budget at a smidgeon under

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Reluctant gardener Liz can leave all the outdoor work to professionals



Oxford is perfect for cycling and there's also space for off-street parking – another bonus



Liz wanted a fresh start so bought all the furniture new



Shelves in the living room house Liz's vast book collection



An eat-in kitchen with great storage was on Liz's wishlist

£500K and I was an ideal buyer as I had the money sitting in the bank. The flat was actually a maisonette on the top two floors of a large Victorian house. It was in an ideal position in central north Oxford – I'd also specified that I wanted shops within walking distance – and amazingly for this location, had off-street parking.

Anybody who lives in Oxford knows that parking is a nightmare, so to find free parking was a phenomenal stroke of luck. But there was more. One wall of the living room was devoted to floor-to-ceiling built-in bookshelves. It was nice to buy from another book lover.

There was an ensuite off the main bedroom and, upstairs, two more bedrooms and a bathroom. Under the eaves was a massive storage area that could comfortably take all my boxes.

I discovered an amazing amount of storage in the rest of the flat too, as well as a separate utility room with cloakroom – a gents! – and a toolroom on the landing. And did I mention the eat-in kitchen, where the owners had constructed a useful bench with storage underneath? It could have been specially designed for me; I couldn't have asked for anything better.

The flat did come with a garden, it's true, but that was another plus, as a firm of gardeners look after it. I wouldn't have to lift a pair of secateurs and my only task, garden-wise, would be to sit in it on a summer's day, should I feel inclined.

Twelve flats make up the complex, developed in 1997 out of three large terraced houses built in the 1880s for academics newly allowed to marry and move out of college. In time, the houses became too expensive for the dons and were gradually turned into flats. But our building has another advantage: we all own a share of the freehold, which means there is no grasping landlord making a profit out of us. The place was, I had to admit, slightly tired and old-fashioned, and painted in my least favourite

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

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Although Victorian in style, the flat takes well to the modern look

colour, pale yellow. But that could be easily changed in time; it was perfectly habitable. Wonderfully habitable, I might say. I furnished it from scratch and felt happy and at home from the start.

I imagined I wasn't likely to encounter trouble from nasty neighbours because these flats are expensive and situated in the most desirable part of Oxford. And that has certainly been the case, but it's partly because I don't actually have any neighbours. For most of my time here, I've been the only occupier in my building. The other flats, unfortunately, belong to absentee owners and are either empty or rented on short-term contracts.

There's nobody to say hello to on the stairs, but that's a small price to pay for the other benefits. From my top floor I have wonderful views all over Oxford and am completely secure here. I can lock up and leave and nobody knows whether I'm in or out. I'm untroubled by casual callers, apart from the occasional Jehovah's Witnesses.

Over the years, I've completely renovated the flat to create a clean, white, contemporary space. Although it's Victorian, it takes well to a modern look. The service charges of nearly £3,000 a year and the council tax of over £2,000 a year are expensive for a single person to pay, but to help cover these costs I've become an Airbnb host renting a room and bathroom on the top floor. The flat is big enough to take paying guests, and as my grandchildren are now teenagers and unlikely to come any more, I have spare space. I didn't foresee that the flat would provide an income in my old age, but that's another kind gift it's bestowed.

And the stairs? Although my visitors complain, I can bound up the three flights (with shopping) with no trouble at all. All in all, my flat has been a magical buy and long may I remain in residence. **HB**

LIZ'S TIPS for downshifters

If you're considering downsizing, bear these factors in mind

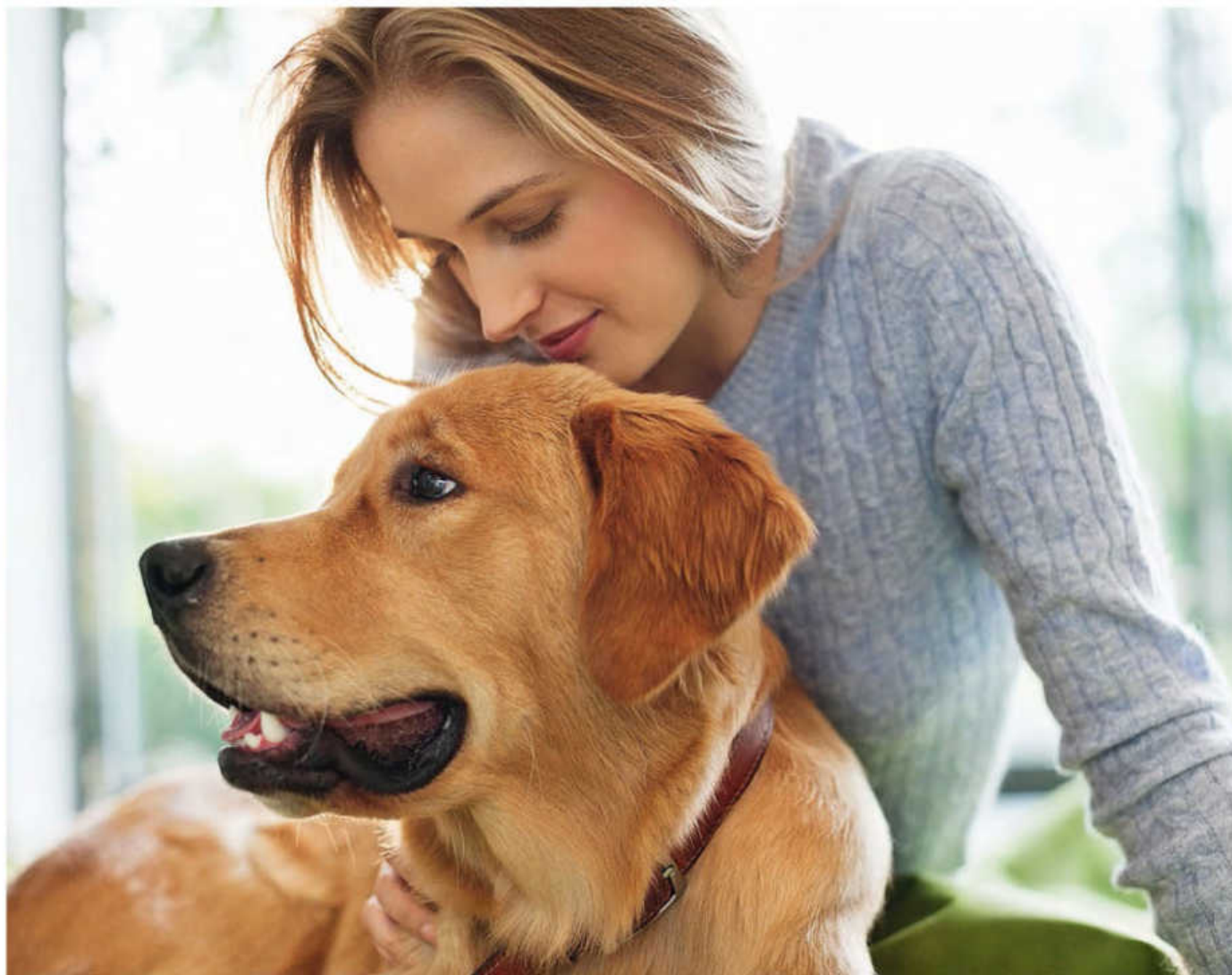
- * Will your new home still suit you in 10 years? You may enjoy gardening now, but will a large garden eventually become a burden? Anticipate how your needs might change as you get older.
- * Carefully add up all the costs, including council tax, service charges if any, fuel bills and water rates and make sure you can afford them on a fixed or declining income.
- * I'd advise all downsizers to move to somewhere within walking distance from shops or at least on a bus route. Many villages look idyllic, but often have no shops and no bus service. It may also be a major operation to get to see a film or go to the theatre and, in time, you may not want or be able to drive.
- * If you're a couple, would you be lonely when one of you dies? In my view, it makes sense to move to somewhere central, where there are plenty of activities on your doorstep, for both singles and couples.
- * Most of all, don't leave it too late before you downsize. Do it while you're still relatively young and active and have the energy to relocate, make new friends and redecorate if necessary. When you do move, make sure it's to somewhere smart, clean, easy to run, safe and secure.



From the top floor, Liz enjoys stunning views of Oxford spires



If you're interested in buying a custom-build house, see the House Beautiful Homes collection, a range of light and spacious designs based on a loft living idea and mixing open-plan, multi-functional areas with private spaces and masses of storage. Find out more on page 66.



SHOW YOU CARE

Making sure your pets are healthy and happy is a small price to pay for the friendship, loyalty and affection they bring to your life

It doesn't take much to make a pet feel at home – a comfy bed, a special bowl and some toys. They quickly become part of the family, returning your affection with a welcoming wag of their tail or rub of their silky fur. That's why it's so hard to see them made miserable by irritating fleas or ticks.

Up to one in five cats and one in 10 dogs suffers from fleas* which may cause itching and inflamed skin and can transmit tapeworm; while ticks can transmit diseases such as Lyme disease to both humans and animals. Frontline®

Spot On – the UK's No.1 flea and tick protection** – kills fleas and ticks without being absorbed into your pet's body. It's easy to apply and your dog or cat can be bathed or go swimming 48 hours after application.

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Buy Frontline Spot On from pharmacies, pet stores, online and vet clinics. Find your nearest retailer plus advice on products at uk.frontline.com

Clearing a flea infestation can take three months or more, so ensure monthly flea and tick protection with Frontline Spot On



LIVING WELL

Stylish and sustainable buys for your home



TURNING THE TABLES

Help struggling communities across the world with these chic tableware designs

1 MANGO WOOD

Nkuku sells beautiful products made from sustainable materials and helps support social projects, cooperatives and family businesses, mainly in Africa and India. Artisan Coloured Plates range is handmade from sustainable mango wood. **Side plates, £12.95 each; dinner plates, £16.95 each; all nkuku.com**

2 UNIQUE DESIGNS

Dassie is a member of the British Association of Fair Trade Shops and specialises in South African eco homewares. The wood-fired ceramic Coral Mesh collection is dishwasher and microwave safe. **Ouma jug, £19.95; Watermelon platter, £67.95; Rice bowl, £21.95; Hugo platter, £43.95; dassie.co.uk**

3 EARTHENWARE COLLECTION

These simple, elegant bowls are handmade in southern India as part of a Fairtrade project that offers secure employment for women artisans from disadvantaged backgrounds. **Dishwasher-safe earthenware bowls, £12.95 each, Rigby & Mac**

THREE WE LOVE

CURTAIN CALLS

Dress your windows with sustainable poles



GOOD WOOD

As when buying any timber products, it's important to choose wood grown in sustainable forests. This stylish design is made using 100 per cent FSC-approved ashwood.

John Lewis Curtain Pole Kit in Limed Ash, 35mm dia, £65, John Lewis



BEST OF BRITISH

Made in a Suffolk forge that uses traditional blacksmithing techniques, these curtain poles will last a lifetime and help support English cottage industries. **Wrought Iron Ball and Twisted Cage finial, £30 each; brackets from £10 each; rings £1 each; curtain pole, 20mm dia, 21p a cm; all Made by the Forge**



MIXED MATERIALS

Ironmonger Jim Lawrence makes a huge variety of wrought-iron poles, tiebacks and finials with extra details including glass and willow. **Ecofriendly woven willow finial, £16.50; forged iron bar, 12mm dia, 14p a cm; both Jim Lawrence**



Soothing scents

Designed to resemble a water droplet and covered in FSC bamboo with a textured ceramic top, this Amaya ultrasonic diffuser features a timer and uses tap water and a drop of essential oil to fill your home with a subtle scent, £69.99, Madebyzen.

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60 seconds on... GREEN ENERGY

Guy Thompson, product director for My Utility Genius, unravels the confusion of finding a sustainable energy provider

If someone were interested in switching to a green energy provider where would they start?

It's tricky because if reducing emissions is important to them, then nuclear power is carbon neutral, but few people would think of it as green! Make sure you ask the provider where they get their energy from – wind, small-scale hydro, solar and anaerobic digestion are the best sources – and check if they simply buy the green energy or whether they invest in renewable technology.

What's the difference between the leading 'green' energy providers?

Ecotricity generates electricity using onshore wind turbines. Good Energy, which prides itself on being absolutely sustainable, would, by most industry insiders, be considered to be the greener of the two, with a mix of renewable energy sources. LoCo2 is a new company offering the cheapest 100 per cent renewable tariff on the market.

Doesn't all the renewable energy generated just feed into the national grid?

Yes, but what's important isn't whether you

receive individually generated electrons from a renewable source, but whether your money helped to generate new renewable energy through investment. Without people being prepared to pay a premium for green rather than fossil fuels there's no incentive for suppliers to generate renewable supplies.

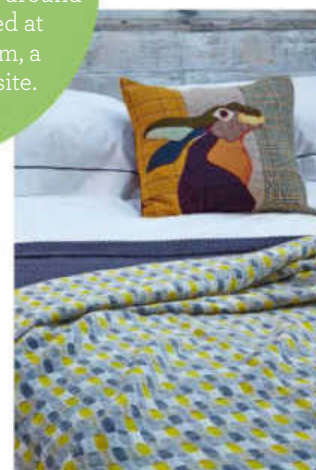
What about energy companies that donate to environmental charities and plant trees. Isn't this just a gimmick?

It's difficult to say, but it's significantly easier and possibly cheaper for an energy provider to do a deal with a tree-planting partner than it is to manage multiple deals to buy small-scale renewable electricity supplies.

Is it worth paying more for green energy?

Yes, it costs more simply because your provider is buying it in small job lots from multiple sources, which makes trading on the energy market less efficient.

● **For more energy information visit myutilitygenius.co.uk**



Soft organics

Treat yourself to the new organic cotton Somers range from Luma, which has a super-soft 300 thread count. A double duvet is £85; a fitted double sheet is £55; and the Hare cushion is £89; all Luma

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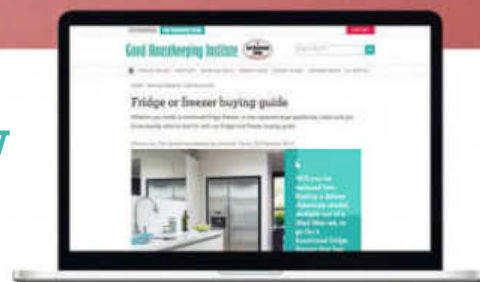


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BUYER'S GUIDE

BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

If you've grown too much, store it in style



PILE THEM ON

Stackable and practical, these natural wood with dove-grey trim Madley Crates are available in four sizes and cost from £28 to £48, Rowen & Wren



HOP TO IT

Storing your potatoes in cool, shaded conditions will prevent them sprouting. Willow potato hopper (45cm x 50cm), £34, Store



KITCHEN STORAGE

This sustainable mango wood mini larder features drawers, slatted storage and a chopping board (H90cm x W80cm x D65cm), £395, Alison at Home



HANDY SACKS

These biodegradable coffee sacks offer storage for all your root vegetables, £10 for a pack of four, Hen & Hammock



CLASSIC CHOICE

Pickle and preserve your glut of goodies with a classic rubber-sealed Kilner jar. From £2.99 for 0.125L to £10.99 for 3L, Kilner



HIDING PLACES

Store your excess fruit and vegetables in this FSC pine crate (H26cm) which comes with a handy chalkboard for labelling, £35.95, Plantabox



TWITTER TALK

Create the right welcome for new pets with advice from Amy Wilson, charitable foundation manager for Support Adoption For Pets

@HB: What's the secret to creating a pet-friendly home?

@AdoptionForPets: A secure garden, space and a comfy bed – and easy-clean floors for those mucky paws!

@HB: What about for animals such as pet rabbits?

@AdoptionForPets: They can now be house trained, which makes indoor rabbits more popular, but they do have a tendency to chew, so protect any wires!

@HB: What do prospective owners need to consider before adopting?

@AdoptionForPets: Think about how long they'll spend on their own, feed costs and vet bills before you make a commitment

@HB: Won't a pet mean more cleaning, more bad smells and chewed furniture?

@AdoptionForPets: Pets bring hair and the odd dirty paw print but these can be cleaned, a small price to pay for unconditional love and companionship

@HB: How many pets are currently looking for adoption in the UK?

@AdoptionForPets: Too many! Last year alone we re-homed more than 67,000 animals

@HB: What's the first step if we want to adopt a pet?

@AdoptionForPets: Consider what kind of animal is best for your family so you can be sure you and your new pet will have a long, happy lifetime together

● **For more information visit supportadoptionforpets.co.uk** **HB**

COOK'S NOTE

✱ This is one of my sister-in-law Emily's signature recipes. If you don't want to add the noodles, she says, then leave them out. The soup works perfectly well without them!

STAR DISHES

Italian recipes with a British twist from the kitchen of award-winning actor Stanley Tucci and his wife Felicity Blunt

Chicken noodle soup

SERVES 4-6

2 medium yellow onions
5 bone-in, skin-on chicken leg and thigh pieces
5 sprigs fresh thyme
2tbsp olive oil
5 medium carrots, diced
4 celery stalks, diced
2 cloves garlic, finely diced
2½tbsp finely diced fresh ginger
120ml dry white wine
2L low-salt chicken broth
3 chicken bouillon cubes
2tbsp barbecue sauce (optional)
1 bay leaf
450g extra-wide egg noodles

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C, (180° fan, gas mark 6).

2 Finely dice one onion and set aside. Halve the remaining onion lengthwise, then cut it into chunky half-moon slices. Scatter the slices on a baking sheet. Place the chicken pieces on top. Tuck the thyme sprigs into the chicken, then brush it with a little of the olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Bake for 30-40min. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool.

3 In a large cast-iron casserole, heat the remaining olive oil over a medium heat. Add the diced onion, carrots and celery, and

sweat the vegetables, stirring occasionally, for about 5min. Season with salt and pepper.

4 Add the garlic and ginger, stir, and cook for 3-5min more. Pour in the wine and let it cook down for a few minutes, then add the chicken broth and bouillon cubes and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to maintain a very low simmer.

5 Remove the chicken skin and shred the meat roughly from the bones – the meat will become very tender and break down further in the soup. Add the shredded chicken to the soup, along with the onions and any juices from the baking

sheet. The onions should be really juicy and caramelised and will add great flavour. Stir in the barbecue sauce, if desired.

6 Throw in a bay leaf and a couple of the chicken leg bones, cover, and cook at a very low simmer for about 2 hours.

7 When the soup is ready, remove from the heat, fish out the chicken bones and the bay leaf, and let it sit.

8 Meanwhile, bring a large pot of well-salted water to a boil. Add the noodles and cook according to the package directions. Drain and divide the noodles among serving bowls. Ladle the soup over the top to serve.



Seared lamb chops

SERVES 4-6

2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
Leaves from 3 sprigs of fresh thyme, chopped

Leaves from 3 sprigs of fresh rosemary, chopped

Freshly ground black pepper

60ml extra virgin olive oil

12 lamb chops, trimmed

2tbsp olive oil

120ml-240ml dry white wine

Sea salt

1 In a large bowl, mix the garlic, thyme, rosemary, pepper and extra virgin olive oil. Toss the

lamb through the mixture and set aside to marinate for at least 20min, preferably an hour.

2 In a large sauté pan heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Fry the chops for 3-5min on each side until cooked to your liking. Pressing the flesh in the centre of each chop will allow you to gauge how cooked it is. The firmer the meat, the more done it is.

3 Set the chops aside and add the garlic and rosemary from the marinade to the pan. Cook until the garlic takes colour,

then deglaze the pan with the wine and cook, stirring in any juices from the lamb, until reduced into a sauce.

4 Alternatively, while the lamb chops are marinating, heat your grill to high. Scrape off the excess marinade from the chops, place them in an enamel roasting pan and season them generously with salt. Place them under the grill for 3-5min on each side, until done to your liking. Follow the steps above to make the sauce.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

COOK'S NOTE

★ Make sure your lamb chops are well trimmed so the rib bone can act as a handle.



COOK'S NOTE

* My friend Natasha Richardson, who passed away far too young, was an extraordinary cook and her sister and mother were kind enough to cobble together the notes that Natasha had made about this recipe, which was one of my favourites. I have it with a glass, or three, of rosé.

Pissaladière

SERVES 4

60ml olive oil
2tbsp butter
1kg onions, finely sliced
4 cloves garlic of, coarsely chopped
Leaves from 4 sprigs fresh thyme
1tsp soft light brown sugar
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 sheet puff pastry
16 anchovy fillets
Handful of black olives

1 In a large frying pan, heat the olive oil and butter over medium heat. Add the onions and soften them for 5-10min, then add the garlic, thyme and brown sugar. If your frying pan is overcrowded, start by using two frying pans and transfer the onions to one once they've shrunk in size.

2 Reduce the heat and continue to cook gently until the onions start to caramelize and are meltingly tender. This

could take up to an hour or more. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Remove from the heat and set aside.

3 Preheat the oven to 220°C (200°C fan, gas mark 7). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

4 Unroll the puff pastry and give it a quick roll with a rolling pin. Place it on the prepared baking sheet. Then score a line about 1 inch from the edges on each side of the pastry – this will

give your tart a raised edge. Pile the onions onto the pastry, keeping them inside the scored lines. Place the anchovy fillets on top in a diamond pattern, and place an olive in the middle of each diamond.

5 Bake the pissaladière for about 20min, or until the pastry edges are puffed and golden and the onions are hot throughout and beginning to brown.

6 You can serve this dish hot, at room temperature or cold.

**COOK'S NOTE**

★ Check shellfish as you clean them and discard any that have broken shells or fail to close when you tap their shells firmly.

Paella

SERVES 4

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp saffron

FOR THE SOFRITO SAUCE

2 tbs extra virgin olive oil

$\frac{1}{2}$ red onion, chopped

$\frac{1}{2}$ sweet onion, chopped

$\frac{1}{2}$ shallot, finely chopped

2 cloves of garlic, chopped

$\frac{1}{4}$ red pepper, chopped

$\frac{1}{4}$ green pepper, chopped

1 tsp sweet Spanish smoked paprika

200g plum tomatoes, crushed by hand

1 bay leaf

Sea salt

FOR THE PAELLA

225g jumbo shrimp

1 tbs extra virgin olive oil

225g bomba or paella rice

120ml white wine

350ml chicken stock

350ml seafood stock (See recipe, right)

225g clams, cleaned (see Cook's Note)

225g mussels, cleaned and debearded (see Cook's Note)

1 First toast the saffron. Wrap the strands in an aluminium foil packet and toast it gently in a dry frying pan or over a toaster for 2min to release the flavour.

2 Peel half of the shrimp and set aside. In a 13½-inch paella pan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the unpeeled shrimp and cook for 2min until they're halfway to changing colour. Set aside.

3 For the sofrito: In the paella pan, heat the oil over low heat. Add the onion and shallot and cook gently to soften without allowing them to colour. Add the garlic and the pepper and cook over low heat until softened. Stir in the toasted

saffron and paprika. Add the tomatoes and the bay leaf, and season generously with salt.

Cook until the mixture has softened, about 7-10min.

4 Raise heat to medium-high and add the rice and wine. Stir everything together until the alcohol has burned off. Add the chicken and seafood stocks and bring to a boil. Lower the heat to a simmer, spread the ingredients evenly in the pan and cook for 15min without stirring, until the rice has absorbed a lot of the liquid. Add the clams, mussels and all the shrimp, never stirring, and continue cooking until the shellfish open, about 5-10min.

5 If the rice is a bit damp, raise the heat for a few minutes to evaporate the liquid. Ideally, the rice will now have a golden crust on the bottom, which the

Spanish call a *socarrat*. Remove from the heat and serve.

SEAFOOD STOCK

In a large stockpot, heat 1 tbs olive oil over medium heat. Add the shrimp shells and cook until they turn reddish-pink. Add a bay leaf, a few whole black peppercorns, 1 chopped onion, a handful of fresh flat-leaf parsley and enough water to cover them by about 2.5cm. Bring to a boil. Skim off the scum. Reduce the heat to low and simmer for 30-40min. Strain the stock through a fine sieve into a bowl or clean stockpot, pushing the shells against the sieve with the back of a spoon to release as much flavour as possible. This stock doesn't keep, so use it the day you make it.

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Veggie parmigiana

SERVES 4-6

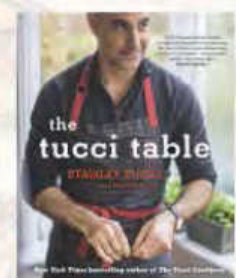
1 large aubergine, halved lengthwise, then cut lengthwise at an angle into long, ¾in thick slices
 2 large potatoes, peeled, halved lengthwise, and cut into half-moons (optional)
 3 courgettes, cut in thin strips
 5-7tbsp olive oil
 25g breadcrumbs
 2tbsp fresh thyme, finely chopped
 2tbsp fresh oregano, finely chopped
 25g freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano
 1-2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
 2 large tomatoes, finely sliced

- 1 Preheat grill to medium-high.
- 2 Spread the aubergine, potato (if using), and courgette slices on individual baking sheets, one for each ingredient. Coat with 2tbsp of the olive oil, and season with salt. Then place them under the grill until they start to colour, about 3-5min. This will evaporate some of their water so they don't go soggy in the final dish.
- 3 Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan, gas mark 4).
- 4 Combine the breadcrumbs, half the chopped herbs, half the grated cheese, and a dash of salt and pepper in a bowl. Set aside.
- 5 Combine the remaining herb mixture, grated cheese, all of the garlic, and a dash of salt and pepper in another bowl.
- 6 Coat the bottom and sides of a rectangular baking dish with 2tbsp of the olive oil.
- 7 From one short side of the dish, stack the aubergine, courgette, potato (if using), and tomatoes so they stand upright on edge against one another. Sprinkle a little of the chopped herb, garlic and cheese mix in between some of the layers.
- 8 Drizzle the remaining olive oil over the top and sprinkle with the breadcrumb mixture.
- 9 Bake for 30-40min. Check it just before the end of the baking time. If it looks a bit dry, drizzle with a little oil. Serve warm or at room temperature, not hot. **HB**

● Read about Stanley's home in *What My Home Means to Me* on page 194

COOK'S NOTE

★ This is a mix of my mother's aubergine parmigiana and a French tian. With added potato, it makes a great veggie main course or a single side dish that combines a starch and a vegetable.



Recipes taken from *The Tucci Table* by Stanley Tucci and Felicity Blunt (£25, Weidenfeld & Nicolson). Photography Toby Lockerbie. House Beautiful readers can order copies for just £22 by calling 01903 828503 and quoting R1071. UK postage is free. Offer closes 30 September, 2015.

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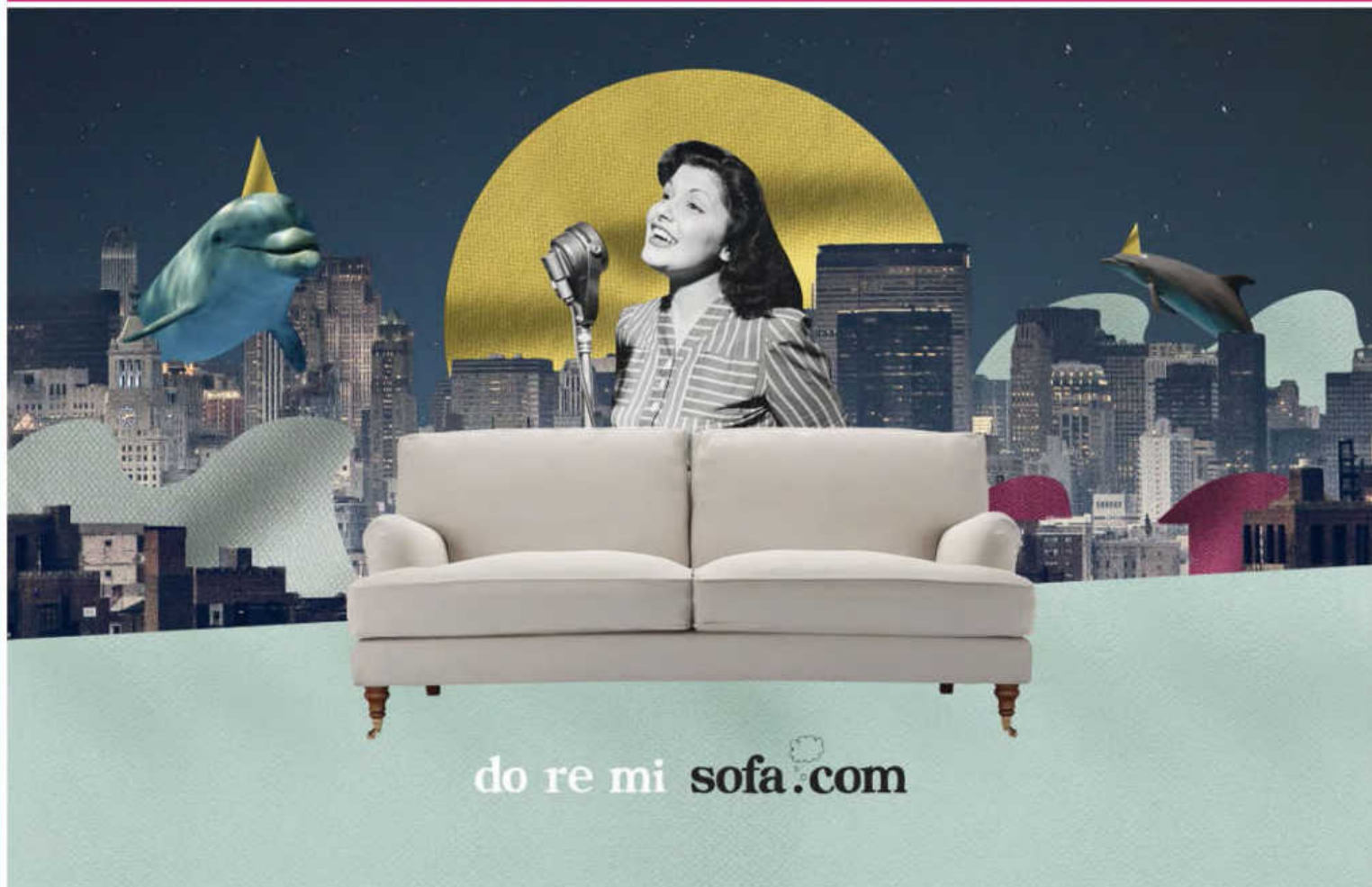


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STANLEY TUCCI

The actor and his wife Felicity Blunt live in London with Stanley's children: 14-year-old twins Isabel and Nicolo, Camilla, 12, and the couple's son, Matteo Oliver, eight months



Above: The couple enjoy cooking together
Left: A design classic – the Noguchi lamp is a favourite piece



WHERE I LIVE

Old houses are my passion – I'm obsessed with renovating and designing them. I can't really afford to do it but I just keep right on. In America I lived in three period houses – the oldest went back to 1738, which is very old for the States. My friend Julianne Moore is the same – she likes doing up houses and then moving. She has impeccable taste. Do I? Yes of course, I insist that I do!

We live in a very welcoming 1900s semi-detached. In terms of interior style, I like mid-century modern. I have an original 1940s Eames chair and a Saarinen table and Tulip chairs in my studio office at the back of the house. I don't sit in them often – I just like to look at them! I'm also very happy with my George Nelson and Noguchi lamps.

I wish our house was a bit wider, but it does have a long garden so we're going to expand the kitchen into a big living/working/cooking/dining space. It's very much a family home. Fi didn't have much stuff of her own before we married because she was living in her sister's flat, but now we're starting to buy furniture together, which is lovely.

MY INSPIRATION

Mum is a wonderful Italian cook – I learned so much from her. One of her dishes that takes me straight back home to New York is her freshly fried polpetta: plain meatballs, no sauce, served with salad and Italian bread and butter. She also used to make pizza on a Friday, the only night we could have a soda! Mum could take whatever was in her cupboards and turn it into something delicious. Now I try to do the same: open up the fridge and experiment.

Dad was the sous chef in the family, but he would cook if Mum was tired. He made a very good pasta aioli, and *uova fra diavolo* – poached eggs in a sweet tomato sauce.

Mum and Dad were always in the kitchen together; that's where they spent their time.

My grandparents had a mini-farm in upstate New York with orchards, rabbits, pigs and hens. In my second house we had chickens and my late wife had horses [Stanley's first wife Kathryn died six years ago]. It was like a little gentleman's farm I could ill afford, but I loved getting the eggs from the chickens. Now in London



Above (l-r): Stanley and Fi had a flat above The Ledbury; a Saarinen Tulip chair; Stanley's father liked to cook *uova fra diavolo*

we grow courgettes, tomatoes, broad beans and lettuce... It's fantastic.

FAMILY LIFE

I first met Fi at the premiere of *The Devil Wears Prada*; she spent most of the evening talking to Kathryn. We met again a few years later at Fi's sister Emily's wedding. We started talking about food and that was it. At one point we were living above The Ledbury restaurant in Notting Hill and one day the chef gave us some pheasants to cook. Fi and I plucked them while we were in our bathrobes watching *Saturday Kitchen*.

We often cook together, but while Fi was pregnant, and now with the baby, I've been doing more. I love it and have been lucky to be home for a long time. At least 75 per cent of our conversations are about food.

The first thing the kids ask when I'm home in the evenings is, 'What's for dinner?' We set the table and always have candles – it makes for a nice atmosphere. Usually we have something simple such as a pasta bake. Nico likes to muck in, Camilla likes to bake and Isabel has no interest – only in eating. But they're good at cleaning up and I've made a concerted effort to be better!

Although I'm a perfectionist, I'm a bit calmer in the kitchen now. Pots may have been thrown once, but not any more. I want people to be happy when I cook. I would have liked to have been a chef – I would have applied myself as I did to acting. I might not have had the talent, but I certainly have the temperament. **HB**

● Turn to page 178 for recipes from Stanley and Felicity's latest cookbook

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Julia Goodwin, House Beautiful Editor and Creative Director for House Beautiful Homes

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HouseBeautiful
HOMES

WELCOME



Your sofa is the centrepiece of the living room so is a key buy. Turn to page 10 for details of this one and other smart designs



Julia Goodwin

There's a wealth of furniture choice in-store and online and we've picked some of our favourites to help you narrow down your options. Find the perfect sofa, chairs, table or storage units with our selection of stylish, hardwearing pieces, from investment buys to great-value items. Enjoy your browsing and shopping!

Julia

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for modern living



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COUCHED IN COMFORT

It's the centrepiece of the room and gets a lot of use so choose a sofa that looks good and feels cosy

Perfect arrangement

Opt for a contemporary-shaped sofa, such as this Izzy Medium Right Hand Chaise, and add a retro twist by covering it in Olive pure cotton matt velvet, £2,360, sofa.com



1



2



3



4



5



6



COLOUR-CODED

1 New grandeur With scrolled arms and hand-turned legs, the Garston three-seater (H89cm x W202cm x D94cm), £799, made.com, is classically elegant. It comes in a range of colours including this Regal Blue and is foam filled with a fixed cover, so no plumping is needed

2 Guest house Ensure visitors get a good night's sleep with this Edington two-seater sofa bed in Pistachio with optional memory foam mattress (H97cm x W163cm x D91cm), £1,446, Willow & Hall

3 Simply stylish This chic Oscar sofa is by And Then Design in collaboration with Oliver Hrubia, a previous winner of the House Beautiful Designer of the Future Award. Its neat dimensions (H76cm

x W154cm x D74cm) make it ideal for small spaces, £2,750, clippings.com

4 Flip side In one simple movement the back rest of this smart, Softline Lazy Boy sofa drops backwards to create a 199cm x 131cm bed – perfect for overnight guests. It's £1,763 from Nest

5 Vintage look Opt for a traditional-style Grassington sofa and cover it in a contemporary fabric such as this Spring Rhythm Lotus Reverse Cornflower, to effortlessly combine old and new, £1,918, Sofas & Stuff

6 Slender sophistication Based on a 1960s Danish design, the Getty is bang on trend and effortlessly cool. The three seater (H78cm x W211cm x D88cm) in Lemon brushed linen is £1,320 from sofa.com

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MUTED TONES

1 Mid-century modern Classic 1950s design makes a welcome return with the Lars sofa (H79cm x W160cm x D86cm). It comes in a range of colours, including this Fjord Duck Egg, £999, Sofa Workshop

2 Squashy comfort The large Alston two-seater in French Grey (H74cm x W188cm x D98cm) has a feather-filled scatter cushion back so it's perfect for snuggling into, from £1,700, Laura Ashley

3 Proof in the pudding Deep seated, with rounded corners and wonderfully soft in the middle, this Soufflé sofa lives up to its name. It comes with weathered oak legs and in a huge range of fabrics. The medium size, 193cm long in Putty broad weave is £1,695, from Loaf

4 Square route Tight spaces can be furnished with this small Franklin sofa, £249, Tesco Direct. Its sunny citrus tone will brighten any room

5 Classic luxury This Chesterfield-style sofa (H74cm x W190cm x D93cm) features the beautiful shape, rolled arms and button-back detailing that are the hallmark of this enduring design. Soft velour fabric feels sumptuous and comfortable, £2,000, Debenhams

6 Snuggle up Perfect for sharing, or just curling up alone with a good book, the Garston Love Seat (H89cm x W140cm x D94cm) will suit either a living room or bedroom. You could position this version in Woven Blue wool with a contrasting pink sofa, £499, made.com

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Beautiful model

Elegant, tulip-shaped arms and splayed legs are a smart update on mid-century style. The Bardolph large sofa can be covered in a huge range of plain and patterned fabrics, including this deliciously delicate pink, from £910, Arlo & Jacob



Creating contrast

Cushions in checks, knits and watercolour designs all add a gorgeous layering effect to this Copenhagen Large sofa in Navora Texture fabric with stain defence, £1,099, Marks & Spencer



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NEUTRAL TEXTURES

1 Greyscale charm Made in Italy, this Askem three-seater (H83cm x W220cm x D105cm) has classic lines and is designed with deep seats – ideal for long, lazy evenings, £1,300, Habitat

2 Style it up With its sleek lines, the Holly sofa (H87cm x W215cm x D90cm) looks fantastic in a linen or herringbone fabric such as this one in Pigeon. Or you can go for a different look and opt for a vibrant velvet to make a bold statement and add a touch of luxury, £1,770, sofa.com

3 Easy care Always stylish and very hardwearing, leather is a great choice for both smart singles and busy families. And it's easy to keep clean, even in pale colours such as this Cream. The Odyssey Medium

Aredo (H88cm x W175cm x D95cm) is £2,150 from John Lewis

4 Sharp lines Harking back to the 1950s, the Jersey is inspired by the seats in American diners. Small but perfectly formed (H74cm x W129cm x D75cm), it would look great in a bedroom or larger hallway as well as a living space. This one in Biscuit Beige is £309, made.com

5 Hampton stripe The navy pencil stripe gives this Pudding sofa a relaxed beachy feel (H83cm x W150cm x D111cm), from £1,195, Loaf

6 Versatile mix This combination sofa has leather and fabric seating with a loose-cushion back for a more traditional look. Great for period properties. Haworth leather corner sofa, £3,099, Multiyork

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

SIT IN STYLE

Make a design statement with chairs that look great in traditional and modern schemes



Mix it up

Choose several different chairs in a similar theme for a coordinated yet interesting collection. Suffolk chair, Harrogate dining chair and Havana Loom chair, from £200 each, Neptune

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TAKE A SEAT...

1 Iconic design Perfectly at home in cool, modern and retro-style buildings, this modern version of a 1950s classic never goes out of fashion. Eames plastic side chair DSR, £205.20, Rockett St George

2 Bright light Combine cheery lemon shades with retro shapes such as this Leon chair, £25. Also in the range is a set of four colourful chairs, £99; all Tesco Direct

3 So smart Fully upholstered, the Amelie has a curved backrest for comfort and the added support of elastic belts in the seat, which makes it just perfect for when you want to linger over dinner. Seat height, 45cm, £300.50, Calligaris

4 New skool Old and new combine in the Copper frame dining chair which offers a fresh take on traditional schoolday seating, £115, Design Vintage

5 Wood grain Hay specialises in sustainable, high quality products such as this J104 beech chair, which looks superb around a pale wood table, £153, Folklore

6 Serious comfort For a more formal look to your dining space choose Oslo upholstered dining chairs for extra back support, £359 for two, BHS

7 Bargain buy Get the Nordic style without a high price tag. Pair of Skandi oak chairs, £199.99, Dunelm

BEFORE YOU BUY

- Make sure the chairs you choose fit underneath your dining table by factoring in the table frame and leg width. There are many variations so choosing a set is sometimes the easier option.
- If you have a table for more than four people, it's great to have some variation in chairs. Think about choosing an accent chair, either the same style but with arms, or go for something completely different that complements the scheme.
- Foldable or stackable chairs are great if you're short on space. Or opt for bench seating that can be tucked away under the table when not in use.
- If you spend lots of time at your table or love to host dinner parties, pick padded or upholstered seating, which is much more comfortable for long evenings with friends.

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



SIDE ORDERS

Find the perfect occasional table with
this inspiring collection

Crowd pleaser

The gorgeous mango
wood Asha table, £325,
John Lewis, provides
plenty of surface area
for storage and display

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HEAVY DUTY

1 Rustic charm A rough-hewn top and metal legs with lovely, flowing lines make the perfect partnership. Monarch coffee table, £498, Anthropologie

2 User-friendly Sit and browse in comfort with a Salvage laptop table; the base tucks neatly under the sofa, £75, French Connection

3 Slimline Great for tight spots, this unobtrusive Brunel Lean-to side table by Rob Scarlet will sit closely to the wall (H52cm x W45cm x D31cm), £95, Heal's

4 Moroccan influence Treat yourself to a traditional Arabic tea set on this Iron Tray table (H45cm), which folds away neatly but is sturdy enough for everyday use, £185, Design Vintage

5 Clear winner This Oriental coffee table in Bronze will appear less invasive than a wooden one in a smaller room, £995 (H40cm x W120cm), Out There Interiors

6 Quirky decoration Fun elements such as this chrysanthemum petal detail on the base, transform a piece of simple furniture, Kiku side table, £995, Oka

7 Featherweight Handles make this slender, powder-coated Black side table, easy to carry (H60cm) £115, Holly's House

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LIGHT TOUCH

- 1 Stow away** Let this Blue Lacquer Blanket trunk be all the stowage you need – and it's the perfect height for your cuppa (H41cm x W91cm x D55cm), £475, Shimu
- 2 Classic beauty** Designed in the 1950s, this great all-rounder has stood the test of time. Ercol Originals coffee table (H36cm x W104cm x D50cm), £500, Vale Furnishers
- 3 Group match** Versatile Ergo nesting tables can be used singly or grouped together, £295, Sweetpea & Willow
- 4 Sit and stack** From a seat to a table – a lightweight enamel Last Stool (H45cm) is easily stackable, £184, Holly's House
- 5 Danish design** Beautifully crafted from solid oiled oak, this Why Wood coffee table (H44cm x 90cm diameter) is from the Says Who range, £225, John Lewis
- 6 Move it** With a handle that makes it easy to move around, this DLM side table, £140, Hay, would suit a modern interior
- 7 Easy hoard** Collapse this rustic Mango Folding table for easy storage. Top, 40cm x 43cm; legs, 52cm, £95, French Connection
- 8 Colour hit** Offering storage and a pop of calm colour, the Bumble table (H56cm) also works well by the bedside, £65, Habitat

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

BEFORE YOU BUY

- The space you have in your room will determine the size of table you're able to go for. Measure up to make sure you can move freely around it.
- Think about scale and proportion. If the table is too small it will be lost in the room but, on the other hand, don't let it dominate the space.
- Consider whether you want one large table or a nest of tables – they'll give you flexibility as they're at different heights and you can move them around.
- Glass tops look good in modern spaces and work well when space is limited; they look lighter and less bulky.
- A coffee table with shelving can also offer storage, and a drawer for the remote controls is always handy.



Cutting corners

An oval shape is great if you have a little extra space. This Miami White coffee table has Scandi lines with slender legs and rounded, child-friendly edges, £49, Tesco Direct

TOP TABLES

Set a place for sociable meals with family and friends



Beached out

Made from reclaimed timber, the Homer table (H76cm x W95cm x L180-210cm), £695, Loaf, has a lived-in, relaxed style

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ALL GATHER ROUND

1 Family friendly With a melamine top that's moisture- and stain-resistant, the Dalshult table (H73cm x W90cm x L185cm) is easy to keep spotless. It's made from birch, seats six and costs £160 from Ikea

2 Turned legs The Isabella dining table from Oka, £1,655, is a classic piece that would suit traditional or rustic interiors. It has a solid oak top and comes with two leaves that ensure it can comfortably seat 10 diners (H75cm x W90cm x L230cm fully extended)

3 Tapered toe An unusual geometric pattern on top and stylish pedestal legs are the hallmarks of the Radar range by Wales & Wales. Six Seater Round Radar table (H75cm x 120cm dia), £399, John Lewis

4 Large gathering There's no need to leave anyone out with this large Sheldrake Oval extending table (H74cm x W110cm x L365cm), £1,400, Neptune. It's made from oak and seats up to 14 people

5 So transparent With a solid oak cross frame detail and glass top this Lyon table (H75cm x W90cm x L180cm) is fantastic for a room that needs a greater feeling of space, £630, Debenhams

6 Angular stand For a statement table, choose this chunky Aloha design (H73cm x W90cm x L165cm), £395, Denneest. With its hand-welded gunmetal frame and solid wood top it perfectly captures the current trend for industrial chic

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LAIID-BACK LUNCHES

1 Think zinc A little wear and tear will only add character to this Yeoman large table (H76cm x W90cm x L200cm). The top is zinc, which is nonporous and practical, £395, Habitat

2 Pret a manger Host long lunches around this French-inspired Hudson Living Maison dining table, which seats four to six (H76cm x W119cm x L119-170cm). It's handpainted in grey and the top is veneered ash with a limed weathered finish, £750, John Lewis

3 Ultra-modern Perfect for a small square room, this Seine 100cm diameter dining table has a smart, white top and metal struts for an industrial-style, designer look at a reasonable price, £199, George Home

4 Leg room The pedestal design of this Harrogate six-seater (H73cm x W90cm x L170-260cm) leaves plenty of space underneath. It has a chalked oak top and comes in this Fog Grey as standard, or you can choose from a range of other smart colours, from £1,140, Neptune

5 Designer influence This marble-topped Tulip Style table (H72cm x W122cm) inspired by the Eero Saarinen classic, will sit comfortably in either a contemporary or more traditional room, £974, Voga

6 Dark night Striking in black, the Split table by Muuto (H73cm x W90cm x L220cm) also comes in oak and ash. Its simple lines with split, bent legs, exemplify the best of Scandinavian design, £1,895, Nest

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

BEFORE YOU BUY

- Circular tables are convivial, perfect for six guests or fewer as there are no awkward corners to contend with. If you normally have more people at the table then opt for an oval shape; they're easier to serve food onto and talk across and take up less space in the room.
- An extendable or drop-leaf table is a great option if you only occasionally have extra guests as it can spend most of its time at its smallest size.
- As your table is the focal point in the room make sure it fits the space well in terms of size, style and colour.



Design reborn

This gorgeous ombre Plank table in white and elm looks as stylish today as it did in the 1950s when it was designed by Ercol (H72cm x W76cm x L152cm), £1,050, Heal's



SIMPLY STREAMLINED

Consider storage in natural materials and simple shapes
to keep the look elegant and contemporary

On the move

Freestanding units offer
flexibility, giving you the option
to reshuffle pieces to suit you.

Oak shelving unit (H180cm x
W80cm x D25cm), £595.
Graham and Green



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SO NATURAL

1 Modern curves Willow veneer dips and waves to house your favourite reads. Ditto magazine holder (H28cm), £69, Boconcept

2 Round up Five circular sections revolve out to each side for easy access. Rotating chest of drawers (H75cm), £449, Store

3 Lean to This chunky unit sits safely against the wall with no fittings required. Hambledon Raw Oak shelf ladder (H180cm x W96cm), £350, Garden Trading

4 Multiple use Accommodate a TV screen and other devices within this modern stand that can also be used as a coffee table. Hooper Media Unit in walnut (H45cm x L150cm), £299, made.com

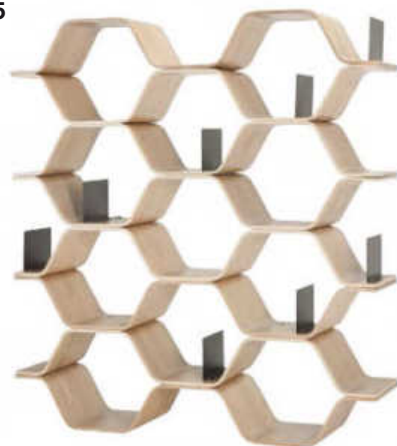
5 Structural style Retro design at its best, these statement shelves (H148cm) come with steel bookends. Eight Polygon shelves with fixings, £219, made.com

6 Pared back Make the most of floor space in smaller rooms with tall, slimline furniture. Tallboy Two has a light, untreated timber finish (H1,220cm), £2,520, Another Country

7 Two tone Dipped laundry basket (H40cm) in wood tones, £25, Tesco Direct

8 Hide and seek Keep clutter out of sight in this beautifully crafted Cubo cabinet (H137cm x W122cm x D46cm), £945, Another Brand

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MODERN RUSTIC

1 Add and subtract As your book collection grows, add another of these decorative units on top. Stack shelves (H106cm x W68cm x D40cm), £825, Oka

2 Bare necessities Untreated ash wood shows the simple beauty of this blanket chest, £1,015, Another Country

3 Divide and roll Wheel this piece to the place you need it most. Oak trolley shelving (H140cm x W115cm x D50cm), £560, Luma

4 Crate up Systematise with crates on shelves, under benches or stacked up.

Farm print crate, £19.14, Chalkboards UK

5 Keep control Hide away hi-tech devices while allowing remote control access through the slot. Border TV unit (H42cm x W110cm x D43cm), £250, Habitat

6 Love labels Keep everything perfectly organised with these practical crates with a chalkboard on the top and side (H17cm x W36cm), £22.74, Chalkboards UK

7 Flatline This collapsible basket can easily be stored away when not in use. Bamboo rim basket in three sizes, from £15 for small (H15cm x W38cm), John Lewis

8 Fold up Space-saving bi-fold doors are ideal for a room without much floor space. Amiri-Bifold cabinet (H180cm), £995, Nkuku

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Workshop chic

Add extra workspace with this sturdy unit that has a galvanised metal top and six removable drawers. Metal-topped unit (H81cm x W90cm x D40cm), £325, Cox & Cox



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BLACK & WHITE

1 Show and store This practical shelf is ideal for a home office. Line up your files neatly on the top ledge. Ekby Alex shelf (W119cm x D29cm), £39, Ikea

2 Antique charm Crafted from solid oak, this display unit has all the character of period furniture. Georgian bookcase (H230cm x W81cm), £1,540, Black Orchid Interiors

3 Shaker style This standout piece is hand-formed and riveted by blacksmiths in Devon. It's perfect for hanging display crockery or coats. Peg rail (H75cm x W98cm), £940, John Churchill at The New Craftsmen

4 Read easy Opt for a modern and minimal look with this handy piece for holding newspapers and mags. Magazine stand (H37cm), £44.50, Holly's House

5 Shoe addict If your hallway is always littered with shoes then this could be the solution. This Dover shoe storage cabinet holds up to nine pairs of your favourite heels (H118cm x W62cm x D30cm), £129.99, Argos

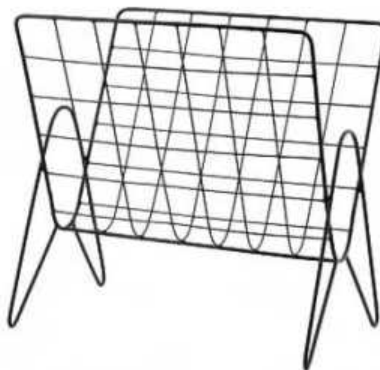
6 Night watch Keep your devices in order with this stylish black-painted unit. Nayoko Straight TV cabinet (H55cm x W120cm x D46cm), £449, Marks & Spencer

7 Fabric file Fill felt containers (L25cm) with books, DVDs or towels, £7.99, H&M

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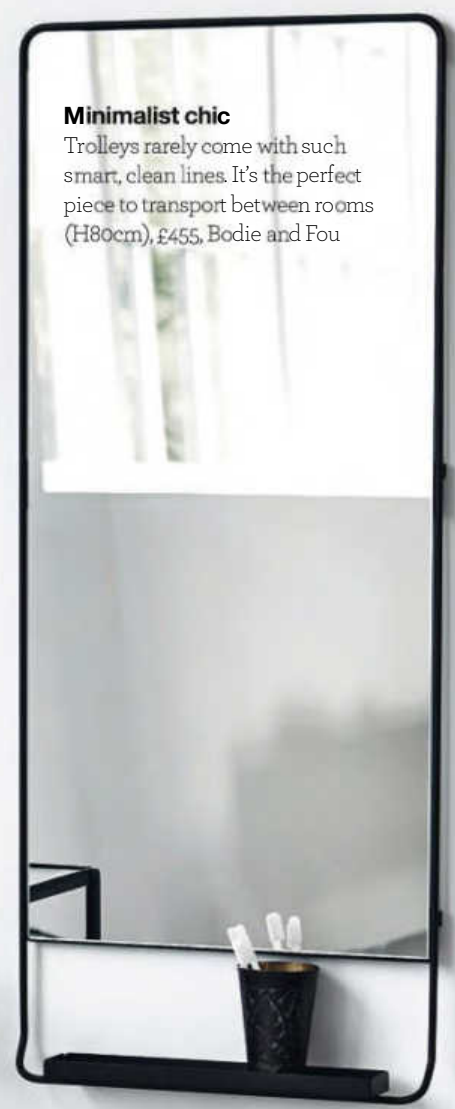
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Minimalist chic
Trolleys rarely come with such smart, clean lines. It's the perfect piece to transport between rooms (H80cm), £455, Bodie and Fou



BEFORE YOU BUY

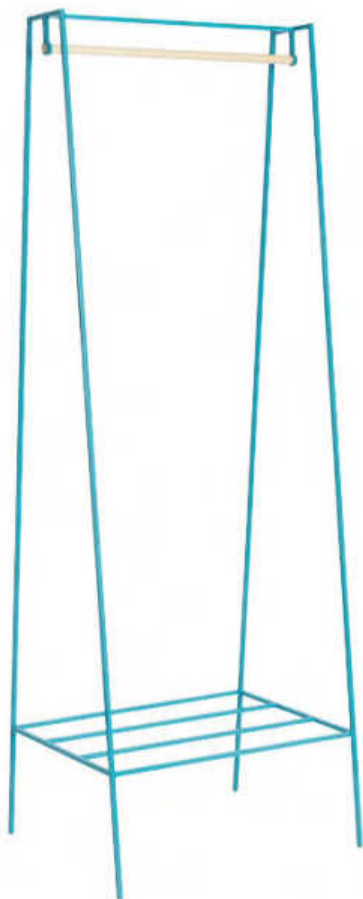
- There will be things you want hidden away and things you love to show off so opt for storage solutions that do both with a mix of shelves and drawers.
- With all the hi-tech gear and gadgets around now, it's a great idea to invest in a TV cabinet to hide devices and cables.
- Be thoughtful with display. Break up solid rows of books by having some lying down, and introduce ornaments, vases and photographs.
- Wall-mounted storage frees up floor space in small rooms. Too much furniture can look cluttered.
- Each tone or texture of wood tells a different story. Either choose one colour and use it throughout or mix timbers for a more rustic approach.
- Freestanding shelving divides up space within open-plan living space.
- Dividers that incorporate shelving beat the clutter by being accessible from each side and give a light, airy feel.
- Trunks and chests are versatile as, with a few cushions on top, they can also be used as seating.



Minimalist chic

Keep your trinkets dust-free in this Espen glass cabinet, £599; soft felt containers are great for blankets and shoes, £20 each; all John Lewis

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BRIGHT STYLE

1 Main frame Handy for the hallway or bedroom this simple 'A' clothes rail by &New comes in five cool colours (H175cm x W60cm), £395, Aria

2 Graphic detail Be party-ready with this playful drinks cabinet that's just perfect for a modern entertaining space. Inside Out cabinet (H67cm x W110cm x D26cm), £445, Joined and Jointed

3 Standout Vibrant and modern, the Vitrina tall cabinet is sure to be a talking point (H210cm x W95cm), £3,420, Case Furniture

4 Best bend Crafted from one piece of metal, this holder can sit on either the floor or desktop to keep papers tidy. Magazine rack (15cm square), £22, Block

5 Clothes show This all-in-one mirror, vanity and clothes hanger is great for a small dressing room. Clothes Horse (H186cm), £1,750, Another Country

6 Transparent Mini units by furniture designer Alexandra Von Furstenberg make for colourful storage. Acrylic treasure box (W20cm), £275, The Conran Shop

7 90 degrees Use with its legs or wall mount this PS 2014 corner cabinet (H110cm x 47cm). Ideal for small spaces, it fits comfortably into tight corners, £65, Ikea

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FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



Tokyo corner sofa,
£4,550; Asha Iron Tray
side table, £199; Fusion
Swirl mirror, £215; all
John Lewis

STOCKISTS



P23

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Another Country 020 7486 3251;
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Hay at nest.co.uk and
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Multiyork 0845 303 7134;
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valeinteriors-surrey.co.uk
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Cover image Homer
extendable table, £695;
Geronimo white chairs,
£290 for two; all Loaf

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101 FABULOUS FURNITURE BUYS



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